



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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## Christmas at St. Michael's

### Sunday 28th November

10:00AM Church Family Worship  
6:30PM Advent Carol Service

### Sunday 5th December

10:00AM Church Family Communion  
4:00PM Christingle Service

### Sunday 12th December

10:00AM Church Family Worship

### Sunday 19th December

10:00AM Nativity Service  
Church open until 2PM for Treacle Market  
6:30PM Carols by Candlelight  
(Free Ticket Required)

### Tuesday 21st December

7:00PM Town Carol Service  
(Free Ticket Required)

### Friday 24th December

4:00PM Crib Service  
(Free Ticket Required)  
11:30PM Midnight Communion

### Saturday 25th December

10:00AM Christmas Family Worship  
with Communion

### Sunday 26th December

10:00AM Church Family Worship  
(Said Service)



Details of how to obtain free tickets can be found via the website <http://www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk/>, the newsletter or by contacting the office on 01625 421 984 /clergypa@maccteam.org.uk

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Spaces for Carols by Candlelight, The Town Carol Service and the Crib Service are limited as a Covid Safety measure. In order to do this, we are asking you to book a free ticket in advance so numbers can be monitored and capped in advance.

Please see the links below which will allow you to book a ticket for each of these services. Tickets are in singles so if you are attending as a couple, family or group, please ensure you select the correct number of tickets required.

We also kindly ask all those attending to wear a face covering if possible in order to try and reduce any spread of Coronavirus.

For Carols by Candlelight— <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi0y/t>

For The Town Carol Service— <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi0z/t>

For the Crib Service— <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQwMi00/t>

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### The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### 28st November 2021

The First Sunday of Advent  
Church Family Worship— 10:00am  
Advent Carol Service— 6:30PM  
Leader: Mike Strutt  
Speaker: Mike Strutt  
Reading: Luke 21:35-36

## Nativity

It's that time again! Hurray!

I need to begin compiling my list of victims / volunteers for this year's Nativity.

The Nativity will take place on **Sunday 19th December in the morning's Church Family Worship slot (10.00am)**

The basic "plot" will remain pretty well what it has always been, although there is always the possibility of dramatic licence.

As usual, there are very few eligibility criteria:

- Age range : 0 - 100 years
- A willingness to don a costume and make some effort at acting
- No need for talent. In fact, it can be a hindrance
- No need to learn lines (but you do need to read your script through and if possible practise your part with others in your scene beforehand)
- If you would prefer a speaking to a non-speaking (or *vice versa*) role, please let me know.
- If I don't have enough volunteers, you might find you have a part anyway
- **(Please note:** the production will be streamed online and your performance will be available to a global audience afterwards on YouTube. If you are concerned about safeguarding issues with children/vulnerable adults, have a quiet word with me and we'll see what we can do to include individuals without them being on camera)



As each year's Nativity is carefully crafted to include all who wish to be included, I need your name/s as soon as possible (email [lynne.norbron@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.norbron@gmail.com) / tel 01625 614819 or speak to me in person).

Participation shouldn't prove too burdensome. And, if you don't want to perform from the front, you are still encouraged to wear appropriate headdresses (halo, crown, tea-towel) as you sit among the congregation.



St Michael and All Angels'  
Macclesfield

# Advent Carol Service

Advent Sunday  
28th November 2021  
6:30pm

*Prepare the way of the Lord!*

*Hymns and anthems sung  
by St Michael's Choir*



**EVERYONE WELCOME TO A  
CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA PARTY**

**at St Michael's Church**

**on Friday, 3rd December 2021**

**2:00pm—4:30pm**

Food, Fellowship and Entertainment

Cost £7.00 per head

Please sign up on a sheet at the back of church to  
reserve your place.

For further details contact Vicky Darlington on Macc 428215  
or speak to any Member of the Social Committee.

Lifts can be arranged, too - look forward to seeing you on the  
3rd December!

## Wednesday Coffee and a Chat



### Elizabeth and Zechariah – Luke Chapter 1.verses 5-25

After our break last week, we were certainly ready for some interesting chat and once again the ideas flowed. Also, we realised that Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November is the first Sunday of Advent so it seemed appropriate to look at these two characters and maybe learn something new about them.

All the commentators say that Elizabeth and Zechariah were an ordinary couple who faithfully loved and served God (v6). They were not rich or famous but they were of priestly descent. Their sadness in life was that they did not have children. This was not only a sadness and a social shame, but also it put them in financial danger because there would be no one to look after them in their old age and they would become even poorer. They were already old. In those days it was the women who were considered 'barren' and no thought was given to the man's infertility, so the women were shamed by society for failing to do the thing that women were required to do – bear children.

But, as Judith said, Zechariah was a devout and humble man who was faithful to his wife and to God. Every year he would go up to Jerusalem and take part in the ceremony where the priests were chosen to serve in the temple. This was decided by the roll of a dice (v 9). Every year he was disappointed. Remember he was an old man so he would have made the journey to Jerusalem twice every year for many years. But this particular year – Praise God - it was his turn to complete the special task of lighting the incense bowl in the temple as the crowd outside prayed (v.10). It was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I wondered what Zac prayed for? I like to think it was for two main things

For the coming of the messenger as predicted in **Malachi Chapter 3, verses 1-4**

The gift of a child for himself and Elizabeth

I also like to think that God's sense of justice and fair play came into action in a beautiful way by combining these two prayers into one answer.

Heather pointed out that the couple were just jogging along, getting on with their everyday life and suddenly their lives were changed and they became part of something very special. And Helen remarked that they were a God-fearing couple who lived lives of faith every day.

Eve, in her usual lovely down to earth way, said that she thought the angel Gabriel was rather harsh on Zechariah (v.20) – taking away his voice simply because he asked a question. She also wanted to know what Gabriel looked like. He was certainly a busy angel because not long after this incident he went to visit Mary. On each occasion when we read about a visit from angels the humans are fearful but the angel always assures them that they need not be afraid and the encounters turn out to be very positive, peaceful and joyful. Grace thought that maybe Gabriel had taken away Zechariah's speech so that he couldn't tell his cousin Mary what had happened.

As you can tell, once again we had a fascinating discussion. We have four Wednesdays left before Christmas so we are going to stay with characters who are part of the 'Christmas story'. Next week we will explore the angel's visit to Mary in Luke 1. 26-56. Please join us if you can. The zoom link is on the back page of the newsletter.

Tricia Atherton

### How do we heat?

Our church is heated by a large, inefficient gas boiler, which will need to be replaced soon, so we need to be ready!!



As an Eco Church, we want to have as little impact on our planet as possible while keeping our building warm(ish). So what do we do?

Do we need a heat pump? (air or ground source?) Solar panels? Another gas boiler? Something else?

We would like a small group of people who to work together to explore the options, consult experts, and produce a recommendation for the PCC, with approximate costs.

If this is something you would be willing to contribute to, please contact the church office: [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)

(Note that we are not asking for a long-term commitment to the Building Group or Eco Group, although both these groups are keen to see the result!)

### MIDWEEK SOUL FOOD

All welcome to

**St Michael's @ 10.30 am on Thursdays**

for our traditional, Book of Common Prayer,  
Communion Service.

A time for quiet reflection and prayer

NB *Communion on Nov 4th, 18th and Dec 2nd. Morning Prayer from Book of Common Prayer on alternate weeks and continuing...*

Angel at my Table Cafe open for refreshments after the service.



### Charity Card Shop

A reminder that the charity card shop held in Macclesfield Library is open **Monday to Saturday until December 19th**. Most charities are represented including the Children's Society.



**Strict COVID rules are in place.**



## AM Nightshelter - 2021 Update for Churches

Hello to all WHAM supporters

Thank you for all the support in prayer and practical action that you have given to the WHAM Nightshelter over the years we have been

operating. As with many projects, we found the lockdown period to be challenging, but were able to offer beds and meals to people – although we couldn't provide our usual time to talk together and socialize. This was disappointing for guests and volunteers. The 2020/21 shelter also ran for shorter hours and in one venue – the redundant Revolution bar on Mill Street.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cheshire East Council took part in the government initiative "Everybody In"; this was a targeted approach to rough sleepers and other homeless people, with funding for councils to find as many beds as possible. Cheshire East Housing team worked extremely hard to ensure that everyone they knew about had accommodation at the start of the Winter period. One of the reasons that WHAM only provided 4 beds was that the Council had succeeded in getting "Everybody In". Most of our guests over the lockdown were those who had a bed but preferred to come to WHAM or had caused such trouble in their accommodation that they were (temporarily) barred from it. This meant that although we saw fewer guests, we experienced a greater number of recordable incidents and more interaction with the Police than ever before.

This year Cheshire East is again in receipt of money specifically for working with homeless people, and thanks to their earlier efforts many have already moved from temporary accommodation into more permanent situations. Because of these factors, they have enough beds across the County to ask WHAM to withdraw for this year, and for the Churches to consider if there are other ways in which we can support those who are homeless or in danger of becoming so. A working party is looking at possibilities – Cheshire East suggest daytime provision and support which is, of course, very different to what we have offered in the past. The Core Team also have some concern over the safety of volunteers and some guests if we are dealing with the most difficult and challenging people; those that the trained council workers have excluded, so, on balance, we agree with the council that a respite for this year is in order.

It is also true that the money made available to councils this year may not continue over the longer term, so WHAM is not 'shutting up shop' but rather taking a break. We will continue to maintain our good working relationships and to review the situation with both the Council Housing Department and the Police.

In the meantime, if you come across a person who seems to be street homeless, please let us know on 07570 559483 (the new WHAM Shelter number), and we will note it and also report it to the Outreach Worker at the council. Hopefully this will prevent multiple reportings of the same individual. If it's late and/or an emergency situation, you can contact the Out of Hours Team on 0300 123 5025

**Rachel Mayers & Marion Tugwood on behalf of the Core Team.**

## Can you offer a lift?



It was agreed at a recent Church Council that we should advertise if anyone is available in the future to give lifts to people wanting to come to Church Services and Events being held in Church. We are keen to find drivers in the Park Lane, Tytherington, Broken Cross areas of the town. If anyone could help please advise Vicky or Gordon Darlington on Macclesfield 428215 and then we can have a list of drivers, who are able to give lifts to members of the congregation, if required

Many thanks.

**Vicky Darlington on behalf of the Social Committee**



## Did someone say FREE TICKETS?

We are still looking for stewards to support some evening events in our church building over the next few weeks:

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec: Macclesfield Male Voice Choir: 7pm-10pm (NOW URGENT)**

Possible daytime school carol services on 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (I have some volunteers for these, possibly need a few more)

All times are approximate, exact times to be confirmed.

The reward? A free ticket for the concert or event, and grateful thanks from the event organiser and the St Michael's office.

Could you offer one evening or afternoon? If this is something for you, please contact the office on [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk).

Many thanks!!

**Rachel Mayers**

**Let the Heavens rejoice and the Earth be glad!**

**Psalm 96:11**

## Lets Eat Together Sundays

Well we did it! We ate together last Sunday and it was lovely.

Nothing special, nothing grand, just a soup and bowl in hand!!!

And a lovely custard tart made by Pam and fruit salad from Catherine

We have decided we will make it a regular event on the third Sunday of each month, starting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Everyone welcome.

For more information ask Tricia Atherton or Chloe.

*A Seasonal Tale.*

The gentle rain of golden leaves has just begun, as they take flight and flutter to the ground.  
Whilst all around the ants are scurrying to and fro, before the winter blasts of ice and snow  
Condemn them to their prison underground.  
And, as each crunchy, crispy, flake hits stone, it somersaults across my patio floor, helped by gentle breezes,  
Which at times will whisk along the withered veiny forms,  
To pile them near or at my kitchen door, as though their effort pleases.

Although to crush them under foot is fun, the constant sweep then shovelling is a bore,  
As more and more and faster still they pour down from above.  
I can only hope that soggy days are not ahead, for leaves so dead, when caught in heavy rain,  
No longer form convenient heaps as when they congregate.  
Instead, autumnal showers decree that they remain, all scattered far across the urban plain of footpaths, roads and everywhere.  
Then, if uncleared, with frost and snow they soon become entombed within a solid mass, so awkward to remove, and they are doomed.

Now with its glory gone, my lime, its limbs uplifted to the sky, has shed its burden for another year,  
And as the winter gales arrive, some branches too will disappear.  
The creaking, snapping wood takes up the tune, replacing that of dainty  
falling leaves,  
And all too soon the icicles appear, as drip by drip they form from bough  
to bough.  
Then, as the snow arrives, its flakes make their debut, and all is still,  
Until the cold east wind wakes up the night, and shaking every branch hurls down below the fluffy mass,  
Till dawn reveals a heap of snow, built up around the sturdy trunk;  
Whilst up above the branches sway and swing, just like a puppet without string.

*Dorothy Bentley-Smith*



**India Direct – Special Christmas Card/Gift**

As you may know, several members of St Michael’s congregation support two children’s homes in India run by India Direct.

Please help to give one of the children a great Christmas. All you do is to buy a Christmas card which

comes with a stamped-addressed envelope. You sign it, post it and that’s it.

Each card costs £12 but this also pays for a present for the child, a new outfit and their special Christmas dinner – great value for your £12!

Please contact Paul Spedding to buy a card(s) ([paulspedding@gmail.com](mailto:paulspedding@gmail.com), Macc 614819 / 07747 622765) by the **8th of December** to ensure it gets to India on time. Please also gift-aid the amount if you can - forms available.

Thank you,

*Paul Spedding*



**Flower News**

Than you yet again to Jo Durbin for the lovely yellow roses on the Chancel Table, graciously given in loving memory of her beloved Eric. Sadly missed by many.



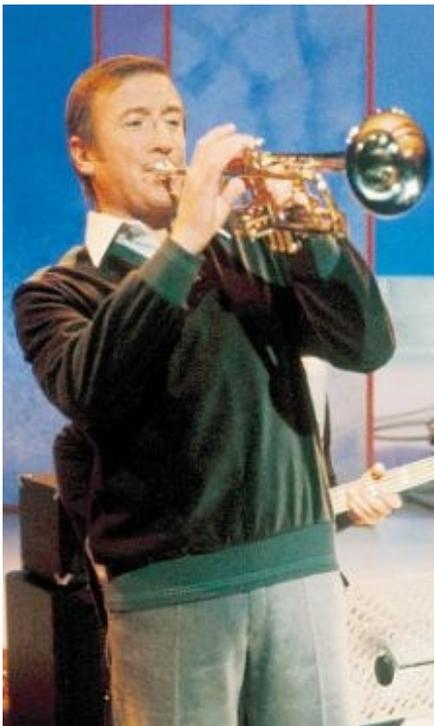
*Kitey*

**Christmas café closure**



**Please note the café will be closed on  
23rd,24th,25th,30th,31st Dec and 1st Jan**

## Lung Cancer Awareness Month



Who remembers Roy Castle? He hosted "Record Breakers" on television and played and sang "Dedication". A Christian and a talented performer his name lives on in the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, a charity set up to raise the awareness of and funding for Lung Cancer diagnosis, treatment and support. He died from Lung Cancer.



November is Lung Cancer awareness month. What do you know?

You can get lung cancer without having smoked. Roy never smoked. He believed the cancer was triggered from passive smoking due to playing the trumpet and singing in smoky clubs. The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation was instrumental in establishing the law prohibiting smoking in enclosed public places. Particle pollution in the air we breathe including exhaust fumes can also be a cause.

Early diagnosis is crucial. Be aware of yourself and go to a doctor if you spot any symptoms, even if they are subtle, to check. They may not be but it is better to be sure, especially if you have several of them

Persistent cough – 3 weeks + or a changed cough

Breathlessness

Fatigue

Weight loss and loss of appetite

Chest infections, chest pain and coughing up blood

Hoarseness

Wheezing

Clubbed fingers (bulging finger tips with curved nails)

Back and/or pain shoulder pain

People can live having had a diagnosis of lung cancer. Treatments of all cancers have improved, including lung cancer. If diagnosed early enough it is not necessarily fatal and there are many treatments available.

If you want to know more or donate please go to:-

Thank you,

**Sallie Bancroft**



## Kisiizi Friends Day: Life in all its Fullness..



I attended this annual celebration a couple of weeks ago. What is Kisiizi? It is a Christian hospital in south west Uganda, 8 hours' drive from Kampala; but it is not just a hospital. It is a whole community, an extraordinary place in rural south-west Uganda serving a very poor community with healthcare, hydro-electricity, primary school education and a community health insurance scheme. Established 55 years ago, Kisiizi continues to develop with a School of Nursing, increasing networks both local and international and yet has continued to provide care for the most vulnerable including the mentally ill, children with disability and neonates. Its core aim remains to share "Life in all its fullness" with its patients, staff, community and visitors.

Why are we particularly interested in this place? Our son and daughter-in-law Richard and Katie spent a year there as doctors a few years ago and we had



the privilege of visiting; furthermore the medical director is Ian Spillman, a former paediatrician at Macclesfield Hospital and member of TFW.

This year has been one of real challenge for the community: there were major floods which inundated some wards and the hydroelectricity generator; the pandemic has closed the school for 2 years; their much-loved Chair of Governors, Bishop Benon, died of Covid19; the lead anaesthetist died, and his replacement killed in an accident; major fraud was discovered in the financial department; there was a shortage of medicines and oxygen caused by the pandemic; machinery came to the end of its life.. and they have been unable to get to visit some of the more outlying clinics.

And yet..there was so much positive news. Patient services have continued, oxygen is now available from Kabale (considerably nearer) and is piped to the wards for the first time; new wards have opened; Covid vaccines are being administered; help has arrived in financial management; new buildings and walkways being constructed, there is a Special Care Baby Unit (unusual in the region); the Mothers' Waiting Home has admitted 406 remote or high risk mothers; mental health outreach (again unusual) reaches 80-120 in each of four clinics; antenatal screening is now done in the community, palliative care being developed; their programme of "smart" discharges has reached national recognition...

The quoted verses from 2 Corinthians 4 seem so apt and powerful "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

Each day at the hospital starts with worship in the chapel, but, being unable to meet there (too crowded) the staff worshipped outside. The film showed such joy and praise to God, you would not have believed the difficulties they were struggling with.



For more detail you could watch this video: <https://youtu.be/T06ecNC0xe4>

And there's even more on specific projects on <http://www.kisiizihospital.org.ug/wp-content/uploads/files/2021/11/Videos-for-Friends-Day-2021.pdf>

*Rachel Mayers*

Join us for

*Worship*



**Wednesday Morning Discussion**

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Coffee & Chat

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

**The First Sunday of Advent**

Church Family Worship—10:00am:  
live in church / streamed on Youtube

Service Leader: Mike Strutt

Talk: Mike Strutt

Reading: Luke 21:35-36

**Please use the link below to stream the Service on Youtube. The stream will go live from 10:00am on Sunday or you can catch up later.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVAzMVqQfoZ9qv0il7rlwEw>



**Monday HomeGroup**

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings  
(Fortnightly)

Where? The Rectory, Beech Lane, SK10 2DY

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

**Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)**

**18th November —Midweek Morning Communion**

**25th November —Midweek Morning Prayer**

**(and then alternate thereafter...)**

**Our midweek services follow the order from the book of Common Prayer (the old order)**

**Thursday Homegroup**

Meeting for Bible study and prayer in various locations.

Please contact David Mayers (420716) or

Eve and David Budgett (431606) for more information.



*How to contact the Office...*



CONTACT US

**Phone—Landline—01625 421 984**

**Mobile— 07579 820 265 (on**

**Thursdays when Porsche is working from home)**

**Email— [clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk) to contact Porsche**

**- [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk) to contact Rachel for room bookings and building matters**

**- [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com) for newsletter items.**

**- [maccteamprinting@gmail.com](mailto:maccteamprinting@gmail.com) for all printing enquiries.**

**In Person—The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY**

**Please note** Porsche is usually in the office on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays** between **9:30am-2:30pm**. **Wednesday** is her day off and **Thursday** she works from home between the same hours.

Rachel's office hours are not set so please make a prior appointment if you wish to meet with Rachel in person.

**Compline/Night Prayer**

**Every Friday**

Topic: Night Prayer

Time: 8.30pm every Friday (join from 8.25pm)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

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

