



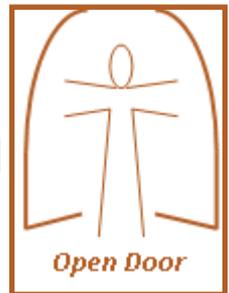
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Coat of Hopes



What is this and how can you get involved?

As we hope everyone is aware, the 2021 United Nations climate change conference will be held in Glasgow in November ("COP 26": the 26th meeting of the snappily named "Conference of the Parties").

More than 190 world leaders will arrive in Scotland, together with thousands of negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks on how to avoid climate disaster.

Let's hope it doesn't just generate more hot air – there's more than enough of that around already for our planet's survival.

In order to help publicise this event, and to try to put "gentle" pressure on world politicians, there will be several pilgrimages by groups of committed individuals walking from their own town/city to Glasgow, staying overnight at churches along the route. One group will be staying at St Mike's on 28th September – but more on that in a later newsletter.



The pilgrims will be bringing with them something called the "Coat of Hopes" – this will eventually be a coat made up of hundreds of patches, individually designed and sewn together by stitchers along the route, to form a wonderful coat illustrating our hopes (and fears) for the planet.

If you would like to learn more about this project, please watch this brief (approx. 3 minutes) video clip: [An Introduction to the Coat of Hopes](#)

If you would like to get involved at St Mike's there are two ways of doing so:

- You can design and make your own patch. A kit is available with the correct size and type of fabric and instructions. You might wish to join a small group of us for a couple of sewing sessions when we can chat together about what we are representing on our patch, and encourage each other (first meeting: 31st August

2.30pm at Chris Wightman's house). You can order your own kit at <https://www.coatofhopes.uk/> (following the links to "make a patch"), or you can just ask me as I have ordered a few extra kits.



- You can come along on 28th September when the pilgrims arrive at St Mike's and when there will be a stitching session. The coat will arrive in church at 6.30pm and its special song will be sung! Then a stitcher will stitch onto the coat the patches which our Macclesfield stitchers have made, plus any others which have accrued on its journey since the last stitching session.

The aim is that the finished coat will be offered to world leaders for them to try on – and they will both literally and metaphorically be wearing the climate hopes and fears of thousands on their shoulders.

I am sure the finished item will be a wonderful work of art as well as a potent act of "Craftivism" – getting involved in politics in a non-threatening but memorable way.



So far we have a small group of interested stitchers from St Mike's and we would welcome anyone else who might wish to get involved.

Please let me know if you would like to join us – the more the merrier!

Lynne (lynne.norbron@gmail.com or 01625 614819)

Separate Project for St Michael's

And on a related subject – we would like to make our own eco-themed textiles piece/s for St Michael's. So far this is simply the germ of an idea – it could take the form of banners for hanging from the pillars (along the lines of our Christmas banners), or a new Communion Table frontal or maybe a wonderful cope for service leaders to wear (another "Coat of Hopes"!!)

Please let me, Chris Wightman, Tricia Atherton or Jenny Whitten know if you would like to be involved. And it would be lovely to welcome some crafty men into the group too!

Lynne Spedding

29th August 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Morning Worship

Leader: Catherine Stephens

Speaker: Rev'd Martin Stephens

Bible Reading: James 1:17-27

The Light of the World



Recently I read a book about the life stories of the Pre-Raphaelite painters and was struck by a passage describing how William Holman Hunt conceived and painted one of my favourite pictures, 'The Light of the World'. In the past Lynne has spoken to us about it, its composition, symbolism etc. and I know that several of you like it. I wonder therefore if I may share with you the passage I have recently read.

Ever since I first saw a copy of this painting on a Sunday School stamp as a child, I was attracted to it. I found it both enchanting and mystical. I loved its mixture of colours, especially the turquoise greens and oranges and the positioning of the many contrasting dark and light shades within it. Jesus looked kind but strong, wise and comforting, someone to respect and whom I felt I should like to know. I have since seen two of the three versions he painted but for me the most striking is in St Paul's Cathedral.

In the book, "The Pre-Raphaelite Tragedy," William Gaunt, the author, says Hunt was moving towards religion at the time he painted 'The Light of the World' in 1851, taken from the text in Revelation 3:20, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and eat with him and he will eat with Me."

He explained to his friend Millais that the painting was to be set at night to show the times were dark; Christ was to hold a Lantern, giving Light to the sinner and to the world; the door was to be choked with weeds, indicating that it had not been opened for a long time; and in the background there was to be an apple orchard (for which the Rectory Farm at Ewell would serve).

Hunt worked in the Ewell orchard from 9pm - 5am. and the nights were cold. He had a little sentry- box built and used a sack of straw to put his feet on. Every full moon the process was repeated. So that the subtleties of the moonlight were not lost he strained his eyes by the flicker of a candle, blowing on his numb fingers to restore circulation. He slept between 5 -10am then went back to his hut to correct what he had done and to prepare for the next night's work.

The struggle was renewed in London; with the further complication that there it was necessary to paint lamplight in daytime and render moonlight by artificial means. In his small drawing room in Chelsea, Hunt made a darkened recess with screens and curtains in which a dummy weirdly stood near a board on which ivy had been nailed,

holding a lighted lantern in its lifeless hand while the artist peered into the gloom through a hole. It is recorded that the omnibus groom taking his horses home at 1 am, would see him working at an open window when real moonlight was to be had. He worked in this way for two years.

After he had finished this painting Hunt wanted his search for truth and nature to go further. In pursuing this he became aware that it was clearly necessary to paint the greatest of events where they had actually happened and that his search for truth should be carried on in Palestine and Syria, in the steps of the Master. For him, it was not a question of looking for a good subject but of a call to perform a religious duty.

This recent discovery about how the picture was actually painted has enriched it for me and has deepened my life- long love of it. It is presently on display at Manchester Art Gallery.

Hazel Hidden

St Michael's Pilgrimage 2021



Our pilgrimage this year will be local, walking from Chester Cathedral back to St Michael's over five days from 22nd to 26th September. This article is to provide some more detail of what's planned and how the pilgrimage will work. While the whole walk is quite a long way, averaging 14

miles each day for the first four days, we will have shorter walk options and people are more than welcome to join us for just one or two days. We hope that as many people as possible will participate. The whole walk is linked by railway stations to make transport easier.

We begin in Chester Cathedral on Wednesday 22nd Sept with a brief service at 10.45 before setting off to walk to Delamere. The shorter walk option would be to join us for the service in the cathedral then search out one of Chester's finer tea rooms.

Day 2, Thursday 23rd, is from Delamere railway station to Northwich with a short service at St Helen's, Northwich, at about 4:30pm. The shorter walk, of about 5 miles, will be around the Anderton Nature Park and the Boat Lift on the Trent and Mersey Canal.

Day 3, Friday 24th, is from Northwich to Knutsford railway station with a service at St John the Baptist church, Knutsford, at about 4:30pm. The shorter walk will be from Plumley station, again of about 5 miles.

Day 4, Saturday 25th, is from Knutsford to reach Prestbury, St Peter's, for a service at 5:00pm with a shorter option to walk from Wilmslow.

The final day, Sunday 26th, which is a Treacle Market day, will be the 2½ miles from Prestbury starting at 9:00am to reach St Michael's by about 10:30. We hope that as many people as possible join us for this last leg.

We are also hoping to have a meal together on the evening of Saturday 25th.

If you're interested in taking part, please have a chat with either of the Paul S's.

Paul Spedding, Paul Simms

Emily and Ben Trek 26 Thank You



You may remember that Emily and Ben were walking Trek 26 in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. They completed the 26 miles around Ullswater on 8th August.

Many of you were kind enough to support them, and the Alzheimer's Society. There are some moneys yet to pay in but the total raised by them is £1350. Thank you for your generosity.

They completed the 26 soggy miles in 10 hours, which included sustenance at a cafe en route! Some of you will know the ups and downs of that route. They came away with sore feet, achy knees, big smiles and medals.



Sallie Bancroft

The Collect for the 13th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music@Mike's begins with a bang!



Percussionist Steven Moore launches the autumn season of M@M on **Thursday 9th**

September at 7.30pm when he visits Macclesfield as part of his national tour "Preludes and Encores". His 1 hour performance

will include pieces by Bach, Piazzolla, Sejourne and others.

As usual entrance is free, but donations are appreciated.

Pre-concert supper

Treat yourself to the complete night out! On Thursday 9th September at 6.30pm the



new church café - "**An angel at your table**" - is offering a 2 course supper to enjoy before the concert at 7.30pm by the percussionist Steven Moore. As always the dishes, with a choice of meat and vegetarian main courses, will be home-made and delicious. All dishes are made using mostly donated ingredients, reducing food waste and carbon emissions, and offered on a "pay what you feel" basis. Bookings are essential; please leave a message on the church office phone **01625 421984** by 7th September at the latest.

David Mayers



An Evening of Delight...



A photo of (from left-right) Martin, Catherine, Sallie & Martin, all suitably masked as they wait for the start of a concert in the Royal Festival Hall earlier this month.

Most of this group were still in primary school when Mike Oldfield starting writing his magnum opus 'Tubular Bells'. With performances of it being rare, it was a genuine treat to hear it performed live - sadly without the genius himself – but with the additional delight of amazing dance and circus acrobatics.

Martin

STEVEN MOORE

Preludes & Encores

Repertoire from
J.S. Bach. A. Piazzolla.
E. Sejourne & others.

Concerts are on a
'Pay what you can' basis

Tickets are not required

Thursday 9th September 7:30pm
St Michaels & All Angels' Church
Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

www.StevenMoorePercussionist.com



Please note if you are attending the Service on Sunday morning there are 6 car parking spaces cordoned off and reserved for people attending St Michaels Church. These are in the King Edward Street Car Park and obviously, it is on a first come basis but please be considerate of those who may be more in need of the spaces close to the entrance.

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— clergy@maccteam.org.uk to contact Porsche
- office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to contact Rachel for room bookings and building matters
- stmikesnotices@gmail.com for newsletter items.
- 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.

A spot of sightseeing!



Whilst on their recent Summer break, instead of the restful beauty of the Lakes or the ruggedness of Cornwall, Martin and Catherine took themselves off to Hackney, East London, choosing to surround themselves with the vibrancy of this multicultural neighbourhood. It was fascinating to discover the history and development of this area from the 1800s onwards, including visiting the world's first council estate!

Here is Catherine in front of one of the many murals that brighten up many streets around. (Thanks, too, to Chris H for suggesting other areas of elegant housing to be seen.)

The Wonderful Diversity of Creation:- let's cherish it!



Some beautiful photographs sent in by Anne Kite with the comment "Whilst walking I love to see the wide open vistas but I delight in seeing the miniatures

in nature such as the spores on the lichen on the walls in Wildboardclough.

Exquisite!". Thank you Anne, they truly are wonderful!



Treacle Market

This Sunday will be the first time that Becky & Andy Thompson will be taking the lead on the Treacle Market since Jane Munro stepped down from this role after 11 years.

As a congregation we all wish them well with this new venture.



Homemakers Group Restarting!

Homemaker

Hooray!

On Thursday 9 September at 8 pm there will be a planning meeting at the home of Enid Skirvin, 5 Brynton Rd (Phone 01625 428 691) Looking forward to seeing old members and hopefully some new ones

Many thanks Enid

Greetings from the Churchwardens in Orkney...



I hope they all had a lovely break and can't wait to hear about what they got up to!

Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



Did Lazarus write John's Gospel???

Gosh, this week, at our Wednesday morning Discussion Group, we have really stretched our imaginations and it has been fascinating. I hasten to add that Academics have given some substance to the assertion that Lazarus (he who was raised from the dead – more of that later) could have written John's Gospel. It could be his Autobiography. I quite like this idea

John is known as the 'disciple whom Jesus loved' (John chapter 21, verse 20) but Lazarus is also referred to in the same way – John chapter 11, verse 3. There may be others who are referred to in this way also. Does this make the phrase significant? I will ask our resident expert in Greek (Lynne)

Kitey had done her homework and googled 'Did Lazarus write John's gospel?' and Martin came along to help us talk this through and to think some new thoughts. This is a theory that has been around for quite some time – even as long ago as Martin was at theological college. Yes, that long!

What a lovely close-knit family this was - Mary, Martha and Lazarus, living in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. Maybe they had been orphaned earlier in life and Lazarus had assumed the role of father to his sisters. Martin imagines that Mary was the younger sister who was captivated by Jesus. She would sit at his feet and listen to his every word. Martha was the older more responsible, mature sister. She was equally interested in the words of Jesus and I can imagine the amazing discussions they would have had when Jesus visited and stayed for a meal or overnight. Martha knew that Jesus was the Son of God (John 11.20-27). All the family acknowledged this and were a great support for Jesus in his ministry.

But it was Lazarus who was brought back to life – resuscitated, after being in the tomb for four days. This opened up a whole discussion on Near Death Experiences and what it must be like, leading us on to thinking about what a Resurrection body would look like – but these questions are too hard to deal with in a half hour chat, so we left it for another day.

This is the last time that we read about Lazarus, after this incident his name is not mentioned again. Strange? But if you think about it, the religious authorities were already trying to build up evidence for Jesus to be arrested and an incident like this would have added fuel to their fire. Soooo.... Maybe Lazarus went underground and took on a different persona to avoid the media attention. Maybe Lazarus and John are one and the same person? Just thinking out loud here.

This Gospel is not always called John's Gospel it is sometimes called the Fourth gospel because it is so different from the other three gospels which basically tell the story of the life of Jesus but don't go into the detail of the character of Jesus. This gospel was written later than the other three, as if the writer of this new gospel wanted to really help people to understand the nature and power of this Jesus. Who better to write that Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection' than Lazarus himself? This is not in any of the other gospels.

Wow! So much to think about, but the main point of this whole gospel is that Jesus came to give life, life in all its fullness. Imagine that it was Lazarus who penned these words, how meaningful would that be.

If you would be inspired by these discussions please do join us by clicking on the link at the back of the newsletter. If you want to chat with someone in person rather than on-line please contact Porsche in the office and she will pass your contact details on.

Thankyou.

Tricia Atherton

Join us for
Sunday Worship



St Michael's Worship 29th August 2021
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Merged service 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: Catherine Stephens
 Talk: Rev'd Martin Stephens
 Reading: James 1:17-27

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](#)

Wednesday Morning Discussion
11.00am to 12 noon
 Join Zoom meeting [here](#)
 Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784
 Passcode: 01625



Monday HomeGroup
 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.

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 #

Thursday Homegroup 

All are welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship.
 During August the Thursday evening homegroup will not be meeting on Zoom. Please contact David Mayers by [email](#) or phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659 for details of future meetings.

We are studying *The Prayer Course* at the moment.

 Email any [prayer requests](#) here

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?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09>
 Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476
 Passcode: compline



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