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www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Open Door



We said there would be more about how you could get involved in moving forward the ideas from the Vision Day- well here it is:

At the Vision Day we asked:

“how could St Michael’s develop its mission as Salt and Light to the people of Macclesfield?”

Almost all your contributions fell into one of three themes:

- Exploring and **Nurturing Christian Faith**
- Enabling people to **Encounter God** through people and our building
- **Sustainability** (minimising our environmental impact)

We now need three groups of six people, each group to work on one of the themes, to develop the ideas from the Vision Day into a plan. These will be put together into an overall strategy for development of the church’s mission over the next five years or so.

Each group will be asked to:

- think about what we want this aspect of ministry in our church to look like in 5 years' time
- prioritise three aims and decide how to monitor progress
- identify some specific projects that will contribute to making progress

We envisage that these groups will be time-limited – you are not signing up for life! However the initial thinking needs to be done by mid October, and there will be follow-up and review for some months after that.

Traffic Light Survey

You may recall in last week’s newsletter Martin mentioned sending out a survey for you to respond to. The survey has now been prepared and is just being pre-tested by a small group to be sure it elicits the information we want to know from each of you. More details soon...



SO: PLEASE consider if God is calling you to be part of one of these Strategy Groups (if more than one area excites you please prioritise as it’s probably best if each person focuses on one area only).

Let Rachel Mayers, Paul Simms or Martin Stephens know (or via Sue in the office).

In parallel with this, some of us will be working on a new Purpose Statement...more on that later.

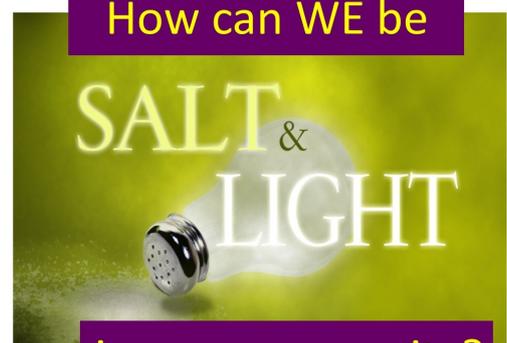
Rachel Mayers, Martin Stephens & Paul Simms

St Michael’s Church **VISION** Day

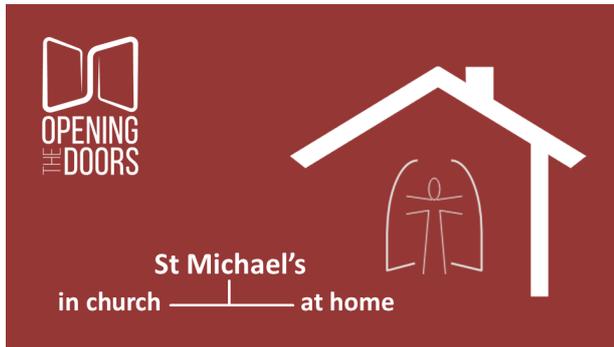
How can **WE** be

SALT & LIGHT

in our community?



St Michael's Merged Worship 2nd Aug 2020
at 10.00am Join in person in church or by
clicking on the image below from 9.45am



Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Sue Reid
Preaching: Barry Langman
Reading: Matthew 14:13-21
Order of Service: [here](#)

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

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

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

No Computer? No problem!

You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and
services with your landline phone

If phoning:



Dial 0330 088 5830.

When prompted, enter the Meeting ID
from any of these boxes followed by #

[For Sunday's service: 939 7279 7379]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:

AUGUST PRAYER LETTER NOW OUT

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults: click [here](#)

NEW Summer Club for families:

[Parents Notes](#) and Resources for [2nd Aug](#)

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JOIN US ON Zoom

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)



Meeting ID: 982 3541
9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin

Coffee & Chat



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate
Wednesday evenings

Dates: 5th & 19th Aug

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6715 2374

Password: 980944



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

Thursday Homegroup

We 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

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Dates for your Diary

FACE COVERINGS



You'll all be aware that from Friday 24th July the Government made it mandatory to wear a face covering in shops and enclosed spaces. The Church of England has issued the following guidance for places of worship:-

"We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing."

How's it going for you?

What a few months it has been. None of us will have seen it coming this time last year. Yet we have lived through four extraordinary months, and life will continue to be extraordinary for some time yet. You might have been adjusting to working from home, or on furlough. You might have been suddenly thrown into the challenge of home-schooling. You might be a local church leader who has rapidly up-skilled to become adept at online ministry. It might have been a time of real struggle and loss, perhaps looking ahead to an uncertain future. However it has been for you, one thing I am hearing lots of people say is that they are really tired. All this adjustment and disorientation has taken its toll. And somehow, from somewhere, we need a rest. I'd really encourage you to get a break this summer, whatever form that takes. Yet there is another dimension to rest. Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' The kind of rest Jesus means here is not like putting the towel down on the beach – assuming we could get there! It's a different, deeper quality of rest and refreshment which we all need. It's about the sense of peace, contentment and fulfilment of living in the love of Jesus. Out of that loving relationship, knowing the forgiveness and acceptance of God, comes refreshment and assurance, and a letting-go of fear and anxiety. A story Christians often remember when thinking about rest is that lovely account in Luke 10 of when Jesus visited the home of his friends, the sisters Martha and Mary. Martha is very busy around the house and complains that Mary is just sitting listening to Jesus. Jesus



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

REJOICE
IN HOPE,
BE PATIENT
IN TRIBULATION,
BE CONSTANT
IN PRAYER.

ROMANS 12:12

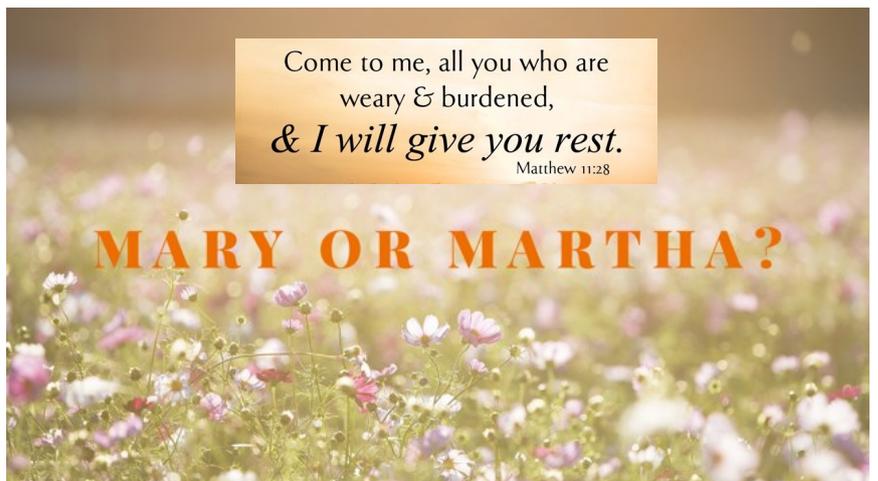


responds gently to Martha but commends Mary for choosing to spend time quietly in his company. We might or might not get away for a holiday this summer. As I write, foreign travel has suddenly become more difficult again. But Jesus still offers us the rest and refreshment that comes from being closer to him. I certainly feel called to find out more of what that means for me just at the moment, and maybe God is calling you to do the same. Drawing breath this summer could mean spending time some time prayer and quietness in the company of the Jesus who offers us rest. And the rightness and reassurance of being in his company brings renewal and refreshment. You might quite rightly still be wanting a holiday as well! But this summer, why not look as well for the company of Jesus and the rest he offers your soul?

Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon, Cheshire West

Come to me, all you who are
weary & burdened,
& I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

MARY OR MARTHA?



Happy 10th Birthday!

Have you ever wondered about who started Treacle Market? Ever wondered why?! Jane Munro was asked to share a little about the story behind our favourite market in our little home town.

Jane, tell us about you...

I'm the slightly frazzled person who is often seen moving speedily at Treacle in a high vis jacket. Sometimes attached to a wheelie bin or wielding a clutch of Treacle Rag 'newspapers'. My background is art and antiques and I have lived in Macc for 12 years and get my kicks from Tribal Art, fabulous friends and the sea. Needless to say I have a long suffering family who rarely pop up at Treacle if they can help it but have been known to ferry the contents of the Treacle trailer into town at midnight and are a brilliant support.

How did it start and why?

Myself and Jane Birch (Mistress of Mash Guru bar and venue) ran a slightly bossy What's On Guide called the Loop, which urged people to get out and do things in Macc. One thing led to another and myself and a group of like minded people set up Barnaby Festival in June 2010. It was a bit of a watershed event and Treacle started the month after. At Barnaby I had seen the real pleasure that people took in 'playing out' in their town and had long been determined to reanimate the handsome but underused old Market Place with a market. It seemed obvious to me and the time was right. Separately Debbie Quinn had seen the popularity of the fledgling Farmers' Market at Barnaby and decided to give one a go herself. The council suggested we joined forces so we did. At that time there were Craft, Antique or Farmers' Markets but I wanted to bring together a genuinely eclectic collection of stalls and create the sort of place I love to wander round myself. Now quite widespread but not seen at that time, I like to think Treacle was a bit of a pioneer with this.

What is the ethos of Treacle Market?

At Treacle we are driven by a real desire to bring people together to experience the pleasure of small scale shopping

Treacle Market

with real people, and to source exceptional quality goods from attractively presented stalls. We try to avoid traders who are seen everywhere and always have a preference for the individual and unique. We avoid replication of stalls and want everyone to have a good trading day. Importantly we try to keep our stall costs modest as it is important for small traders to be with us, not just high turnover businesses. We are so pleased when a small trader leaves Treacle having scaled up and maybe taken on premises, that's a real achievement! We have been trying for a few years now to limit our use of plastic at Treacle too.

Ten years running a market is an incredible achievement - have you found any difficulties or obstacles in running a monthly market?

There have been obstacles but not insurmountable ones! The biggest challenge is the weather. Myself and stall holders are constant weather watchers in the week before the market. Pointlessly I may add, as the forecasts are notoriously inaccurate and we just have to deal with what is thrown at us. Literally sometimes!

What have been some of your favourite memories or moments in the past 10 years of Treacle?

I love the playfulness of the market and am so happy when I see the community coming together in the churchyard, maybe picnic-ing on the grass or eating together at tables on Castle St. The sound of the church bells and Annie's Saints and Sinners always lifts my spirits as does the very real camaraderie and banter with traders each month. There is a real sense of a Treacle Family. I always love the Treacle Hound Dog Show and adored the little Vintage toy dog show we held in the Butter Market. I always love to see children getting creative with the pavement chalks or a visitor heading home carrying something odd - a 1950's mannequin or some such. It's that sense of serendipity that is at the heart of the market essentially. I am always really chuffed to hear where visitors have come from - a visitor from the North East who came specially to see Treacle and stayed in a hotel overnight. Wow! Being told Treacle was like the best of French



markets by a French person was pretty special too.

How would you describe Treacle Market to someone that has never been before?

A bustling, eclectic, slightly unorthodox market with real heart? A place to find and take pleasure from the delicious, the unusual and the beautifully made. You can source genuinely exceptional goods or you can wander round for a couple of hours and just enjoy a cuppa by the band.

Are there any hopes, dreams or plans for the next 10 years of Treacle Market?!

At the moment our focus is taking careful steps to reopen responsibly post Covid lockdown. But in essence I hope to keep delivering a high quality and interesting market that continues to be at the heart of its community whilst enticing visitors from further away. This is only possible with the support of the amazing creative people who trade and help at Treacle. And I am truly grateful to them all.

Next time at Treacle Market, if you see a high-vis blur of a person, remember to wave hello or maybe share your love for Treacle - Jane truly works so hard to deliver this fantastic market every month - and to have done that for the past 10 years is awe-inspiring (and sounds exhausting!).

Thank you Jane!

Hoping to have a market Sun 30th Aug - 'shop and go'



Plastic-free Shopping at Scoop & Scale's new zero-waste pop-up shop

Saturday 8th August 10.00 – 17.00

Heritage Centre (old Sunday School) on Roe Street

Selling a range of refillable items so please bring along your clean empty containers and use these to take your items away. If you forget yours we will have recyclable paper bags too. For sale will be a range of ethical, high quality and environmentally friendly products including:

- pasta, rice and lentils
- muesli and porridge oats
- pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds
- mixed nuts and cashew nuts
- dates, sultanas, raisins and cranberries
- loose leaf tea, coffee and local honey
- snacks: chocolate raisins, Bombay mix, chocolate ginger
- rapeseed oil
- hand wash, shampoo and body wash
- laundry liquid, multi surface cleaner & washing up liquid
- hand soaps, shampoo bars and conditioner bars
- tinned beans and tomatoes
- wax wraps, bamboo toothbrushes and straws
- toilet roll, washing powder, dishwasher tablets and cloths

The 'C' Number

I remember when I first heard the phrase "The R number" in the early days of the pandemic. I barely scraped through my maths exams and algebra wasn't my best subject, so I just thought this was all gobbledeygook, scientific talk that I didn't have a hope of understanding. But after a quick search on Googledeygook, I suddenly found that I knew all there was to know about the R number. It simply means "basic Reproduction number". Now, after months of lockdown, the R number is now generally less than 1, which means that for every person that is infected with Covid, they pass it on to less than one person. Things are going in the right direction. You probably have already worked out where I'm going with this, but I'm going to pose the question anyway. Should we be thinking in terms of a C number? What if every Christian were to pass on their faith in Christ to more than one person? We don't even have to be aiming for whole numbers here. What if each Christian passed on their faith in Christ to 1.2 (that's one point two, not twelve) people. What if this could be done, not every day, not every week, not every year, but just once over the course of a lifetime.

A new family moved into a house a few yards away recently. They arrived from the Netherlands, but prior to that they grew up in Africa, Nigeria, I think they said. I recently met them on the road as they arrived back home one Sunday. We got chatting and the mother told me that she had been to church that morning. But it didn't stop there, she was really enthused about what Jesus brought to her life, how he had changed her



The Church is the body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

These words were spoken at a service to commission 23 men and women into public ministry in parishes across the Diocese of Chester. But as Archdeacon Mike reminds us, we are all called to be FTCWs: Full Time Christian Workers. Mike says: "Please, please do not ever think that because you haven't had a particular kind of training or because you don't have a dog collar, or because you think you're too young or too old, that somehow you are a second class Christian who just makes up the numbers. Far from it. In your daily life at home, in your neighbourhood, at work, at school. On the phone, on Zoom, as you walk the dog. There are ways you can serve Jesus that are unique to you. People you know, situations you can pray for, in ways that no-one else can. God has put you where you are for a purpose and he wants to live through you to bless the world.

Listen to Mike's podcast about this [here](#) for Spotify account holders. Also available on Google podcasts and Radio public, and will be made available on other platforms soon.

life once she had let him in and she smiled from ear to ear when telling me all this.

What really struck me was that she was proud of her faith and had no problems telling people, even relative strangers like myself. What would her C number be I wonder? I can say for sure that her utter conviction and enthusiasm was infectious. She doesn't keep her spiritual beliefs to her herself, or to the confines of the church she attends. She spreads her faith in Christ far and wide and no lockdown will ever slow her down.

*Stephen Freeman,
Diocesan Design and Communications Officer*



The Return of Dame Wanda Part 2

Adrian was working this week, so friend, Martin Mannion, stepped in for stage two of Dame Wanda's trip from London to Macclesfield.

I continue to be relieved that we got through lock 71 of the Grand Union on the Friday of stage 1, just before it succumbed to structural damage. We may have even been the last boat through and have received much ribbing from members of SPCC as to how we managed to wreck the lock! It is the canal equivalent of the M1 being closed in both directions. The knock-on effect for this trip was a very quiet canal in both directions for 3 of the 4 days, even more peaceful than usual if that is possible.

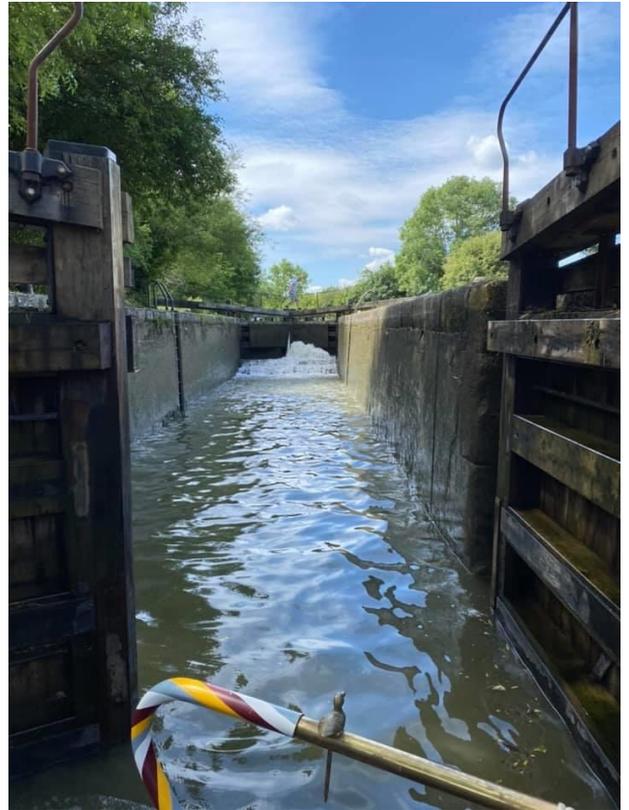
Day 1: Aspley to Tring Summit plus 1.5 miles to the end of the Wendover arm, where we moored overnight on a 500m section that was restored early this century and re-opened in 2004. The Wendover restoration trust continues its work to complete a full restoration of this 6.5-mile arm. A 22-lock day ensured we slept well, with the first 3 of the day assisted by friend Judith who took an early morning walk from her Apsley home.

Day 2: to Stoke Hammond. One better today, 23 locks done, by now Martin and I into an efficient routine. But these are double width locks with heavy gates, and no boats to share them with meant it was hard but satisfying work. Red kites spotted today flying overhead.

Day 3: to Bugbrooke. A mere 9 locks today, with a long lock-free stretch, including through Milton Keynes.

Two unusual canal structures, first a second take was needed as we approached a lock which had a swing bridge over the middle of it, then when we stopped at Cosgrove for milk and water, we discovered a horse tunnel under the canal, used for getting horses from one side to the other after a change in sides of the towpath. From their size one assumes that no fat horses were allowed in the old days. The day's excitement continued as we passed through the very picturesque canal village of Stoke Bruerne and then through the more-or-less-straight Blisworth tunnel, a whopping 2,812m long.

Day 4: to Braunston. 13 locks today in two flights, 7 at Long Buckby and 6 at Braunston, plus 1,873m of Braunston tunnel. On this section the Leicester line of the GU canal



joins the main line, and the South Oxford joins a little after Braunston, there are also several marinas in the area making it busy with boats. The Buckby flight was quite busy and was slow due to low water, with a CRT man letting more down, whilst at Braunston the flight was heaving, we had to wait a while for our turn but then went through with a 70 feet beauty with a Russell Newbury engine. Here we were joined for the last three locks by Martin's friend Kato and his son Daniel, after mooring up in the marina they very kindly dropped us off at Rugby station for our trains to Macclesfield and Euston. A splendid trip done mostly in sunshine. Thank you to Martin for joining me, cooking and most importantly doing 67 locks. Adrian and Garrie return on August 8th to resume the journey, only 122 miles (via Birmingham) and 143 locks to go...

Garrie Naden



Members of the Social Committee enjoying a socially distanced coffee morning in Eve's garden. It was a lovely catch up with one another.

Cheers ladies!



WHAT'S THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN LIKE?



Has she booked us an agent yet?

The Office Assistants made their acting debut in last Sunday's merged worship storytelling of the Parable of the Pearl. Is there no end to these boys' talents? Living their best lives...!

Let's Talk

"Let's Talk on Zoom" offers a safe online space for conversations about the challenges and changes you have encountered, and may continue to experience, as a result of the pandemic. Facilitated by Peter Mackriell, Head of Counselling Services at the Diocese, everything shared will be confidential and remain with the group. The session will not be recorded. In addition the session will be supported by a member of the Outreach team to assist with any follow up or signposting required by group members.

There are a number of free online sessions: Let's Talk About...

The Need to make a change: 6th Aug 10-11am

In this session, we invite you to join us if your lockdown reflections have led you to think you want to make some significant changes as we all move into a new phase. You may want to move to a new role or a new area. You may want to stop doing something that now seems fruitless but not sure how to make a transition. Come and join this safe space to explore the sense of uncertainty, excitement, frustration and the myriad of other feelings that need for change can bring about. Book [here](#)

Enjoying the Lockdown World: 20th Aug 10-11am

People have had very different experiences during the pandemic. For some the chance to be at home full time has opened up new avenues of creativity, peace and connection. Being given the chance to explore a simple way of life, enjoying walks, the unfolding seasons and being grounded in nature have all been significant features for many. Has virtual communication enabled you to enjoy a slower or faster pace? You may have been freed from a commute or in work travel and felt far more productive and focussed. If you have found joy and growth during lockdown, share with us some of your experience. Book your place [here](#)

Not being myself: 16 Sept 2-3pm

Living through a pandemic has had a significant impact upon most people. We have all been re-shaped by recent events, but what if your sense of self, who you are and how you react has been shaken so much that you need to come to terms with the "new you". You may not even know who that "you" is right now. Join this conversation if you want to reflect on the way you have been altered by experiences of the pandemic.

Book [here](#)

Loss & Bereavement: 23rd Sept 2-3pm

You may have direct experience of loss - a family member or friend may have died just before or during lockdown. You may have been involved in ministry, supporting people bereaved during this time or you may be deeply affected by the sense of loss, bereavement and widespread grief that we have all been surrounded by in this period. Whatever aspect of loss and bereavement has had an impact this conversation will give you the chance to share, hear and know that your unique experience does not have to be a lonely one.

Book [here](#)

Hearing God during Lockdown: 1st Oct 10-11am

For many the sense of "returning to their cell" has been profound during lockdown providing the peace to hear and sense God's presence more clearly than ever before. Time for prayer and contemplation has been a gift that has opened up new aspects of spirituality. Yet for others the intensity and busyness of home life has obscured connection with God. With only remote and personal worship possible some have felt a sense of distance from the celebration, thanksgiving and lament gained from the shared experience of being "gathered". Join this conversation to explore what the impact of the pandemic has had on your spiritual growth and prayer life. Book [here](#)

Booking Essential

Contact Details [Hannah Jones](#)

E: hannah.jones@chester.anglican.org

<p>Let's talk about... the need to make a change</p> <hr/> <p>A safe space to talk, for those who want to explore options as lockdown eases.</p>	<p>Let's talk about... enjoying the lockdown world</p> <hr/> <p>A safe place to talk about finding joy and growth during lockdown, share with us some of your experience.</p>	<p>Let's talk about... not being myself</p> <hr/> <p>A safe space to reflect on the way you have been altered by experiences of the pandemic.</p>	<p>Let's talk about... loss and bereavement</p> <hr/> <p>A chance to share, hear and know that your unique experience does not have to be a lonely one.</p>	<p>Let's talk about... hearing God during lockdown</p> <hr/> <p>A safe space to talk, for those who want to explore what the impact of the pandemic has had on your spiritual growth and prayer life.</p>	
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Come and be Revived

Series of talks on Social Justice:
Wednesdays 1.10pm-1.50pm

September 16*
Speaking out for Justice:
how the church in Melanesia is making a difference.

The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson
Archdeacon of Chester

September 23*
Black Lives Matter

The Rt Revd Mark Tanner
The Bishop of Chester and
The Revd Dr Calvin Samuel
Methodist Minister serving in the Bedford, Essex and Hertfordshire District. Formerly Principal of the London School of Theology Calvin has already served as Director of the Wesley Study Centre, Durham, and Academic Dean of St John's College within the University of Durham.

September 30*
Invisible Women

The Revd Liz Shercliff
Director of Studies for Readers and
Sharon Amesu
Leadership Facilitator at St George's House, Windsor Castle, Chair of the Greater Manchester Branch of the Institute of Directors

October 7*
Christianity, Animals and the Climate Crisis

Professor David Clough
Professor of Theological Ethics university of Chester

October 14*
Slavery and Salvation

The Rt Revd Alastair Redfern
Chair of the Clewer Initiative, and former Bishop of Derby

October 21*
Christian Response to UK Poverty

The Revd Lynne Cullens
Incumbent St Mary's Stockport

A series of talks on Social Justice:

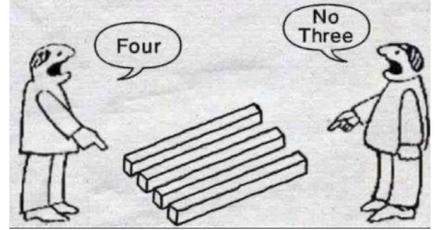
Meet on Zoom or gather together at Chester Cathedral in the Song School.

Chester Cathedral in partnership with Chester Diocese Reader Training

Please book through:
deansoffice@chestercathedral.com to join on line.
The Education Officer Jen Stratford 01244 500 957
jen.stratford@chestercathedral.com to attend in the song school



"Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth."
- Marcus Aurelius



When I get a headache, I take two asprin and keep away from children, just like the bottle says.



WORSHIP PLANNING COVID19 PANDEMIC EDITION

Breathe on Me, Breath of God.....NOPE
Precious Lord, Take my Hand.....NOPE
Just a Closer Walk with Thee.....NOPE
Gather Us In.....NOPE
Close to Thee.....NOPE

COULD WORK

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
I Come to the Garden Alone
Trust and Obey

OPEN Monday to Saturday
11am to 1.00pm
for private prayer

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's
Click here to donate towards our church's ministry →

Professional Telephone Listening Service
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READY TO LISTEN!