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Open Door

What is Pentecost?

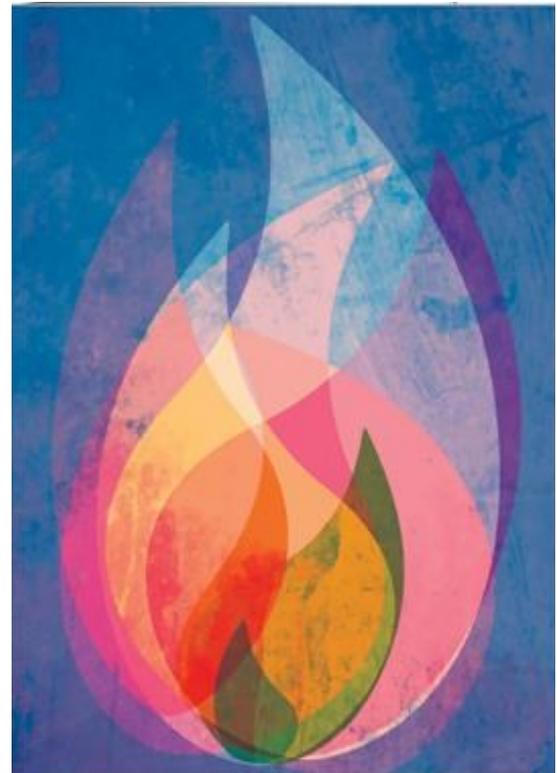
This is a very special time in the Bible when the disciples and other Christians received the Holy Spirit. In the Christian tradition, this event represents the birth of the early church.

God didn't just pick any day for this to happen. Like everything God does, he has a specific time, purpose and reason for it and Pentecost was no exception. Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples and new believers of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that's what Jesus told them would happen.

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they'd be his witnesses in the whole world (**Acts 1:8**). Even more, he told them much earlier that the counsellor (or Holy Spirit) would be sent by the Father, that He would teach them all things and remind them of everything he said to them (**John 14:26**).

Pentecost was a day to celebrate the end of the grain harvest. The people would offer two loaves of bread they had made from their crops and two lambs were waved before the Lord as a thank offering. The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Next, they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. When the tongues of fire came they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages. It says that there were people of many different nationalities staying in Jerusalem from all over and many of them speaking different languages. These people ran over to see what all the noise was about and were surprised to hear their own languages spoken throughout this group. Some of the crowd started making fun of them and started to think that they had too much wine and it was making them act in a strange way.

When Peter heard these rumours he talked to the crowd. He explained that Joel, a messenger of God's word said that this very thing would happen a long time ago. Peter explained how God brought Jesus to them and that they had crucified him and explained that they should repent and be baptized so that others would know that they believed in God and were trying to change. Now, because of Jesus' death and his resurrection, people could be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit from now on.

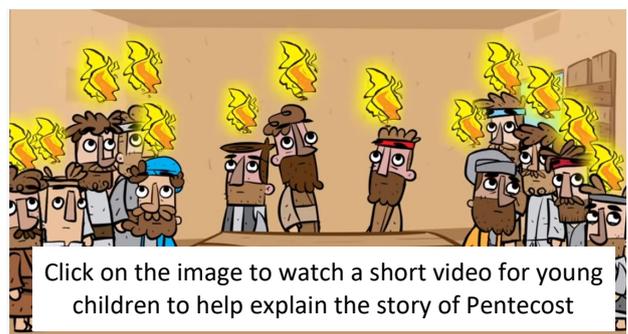


That means we receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ or become Christians. The special thing about having the Holy Spirit is that God never leaves us so we can talk to him or ask for help anytime. The Holy Spirit actually helps us in many ways, he comforts, teaches,

helps us grow in our relationship with God and gives us strength to get rid of the bad habits in our lives. He also gives us power and helps us know when we've done something wrong. Pentecost was very special for the

disciples and special for us even now because that was the start of us receiving the Holy Spirit and being able to ask for forgiveness.

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill my home with peace.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill my life with your power.
Amen.***



Click on the image to watch a short video for young children to help explain the story of Pentecost



St Michael's at Home on Pentecost Sunday:

When? 11.30am for 11.45am on Sunday 31st May

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)
Meeting ID: 954 2607 8393
Password: 01625



If phoning:

Dial 0330 088 5830.

When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 954 2607 8393 followed by #

When prompted, enter #

Don't forget to have a drink and something to eat with you for this service

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: 10th & 24th June

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



Email any **prayer requests** here:
office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Roots Family Time Sheet [here](#)

This week's lectionary readings:-

Resources for adults:-

www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome31may

Resources for families:

www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome31may

For anyone who has concerns about using Zoom for our service this Sunday, my hope is that the experience proves to be a good one. It's not a decision I've jumped to quickly. My reasons for wanting to try and use Zoom in this way are:

1. to make it even better for seeing the church community At the moment around half a dozen people are seen per week; Zoom will enable many more to see (and hear) one another, including in small groups.
2. to include some sense of interaction I've heard people's appreciation for what's been done, but seeing and hearing **one another** should be better still!
3. to give everyone the opportunity to worship together We've been so aware that there are a number of people for whom the online service is out of reach. With Zoom, even those off-line will be able to listen in via their landline and perhaps do a reading or similar.
4. to reduce the time and workload to prepare worship. The pre-recorded services take so long to prepare that it steals from my leisure and family time, as well as reducing my effectiveness is

New to Zoom?

Here are some **YouTube links** to also help you if you are starting from scratch with accessing Zoom:

1. Good basic starting instructions (4 mins) [here](#)
2. Okay basic starting instructions (4 mins) [here](#)
3. How to access Zoom on your mobile/tablet (first 2 mins only) [here](#)

other areas of my work.

We are working hard to make sure everything is as straightforward as possible and to reassure people that gathering together for worship via Zoom is not only manageable but good. Let us know what you think once we've tried it...

Martin

Great is thy faithfulness

sung by our choir accompanied by our worship band



Thank you to our wonderful choir and worship band for putting together this performance of Great is thy faithfulness, which saw its premiere last Sunday on our online recorded service.

A huge thank you to all the choir members who were able to take part and to Arthur Gedd for doing the techy side of making this appear on t'Internet!

If you haven't yet seen it and you're reading this online see it [here](#)

And now they have done it once they may try it again... Watch this space.

Thank You

Which on screen priest would you choose to lead us through the pandemic?

A quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service since the coronavirus lockdown began, and one in 20 have started praying during the crisis, according to a new survey. The Church of England has said that unexpectedly high numbers of people are tuning into online or broadcast services, and 6,000 people phoned a prayer hotline in its first 48 hours of operation. Other faiths have also reported surges in people engaging with online religious activities as places of worship have been closed during the lockdown. The survey of more than 2,000 people, commissioned by the Christian aid agency [Tearfund](#) found that a third of young adults aged between 18 and 34 had watched or listened to an online or broadcast religious service, compared with one in five adults over the age of 55.

One in five of those who have tuned into services in the past few weeks say they have never gone to church. The most frequent subjects of prayers since the lockdown has been family (53%), friends (34%), thanking God (24%), the person praying (28%), frontline services (27%), someone unwell with Covid-19 (20%), and other countries with Covid-19 (15%). A separate poll, commissioned by [Christian Aid](#), found that *The Vicar of Dibley*, the Rev Geraldine Granger, the BBC TV character played by Dawn French, would be the public's choice of screen priest to lead the UK through the coronavirus crisis. In second place was Sister Evangelina, played by Pam Ferris, from *Call the Midwife ...* with Father Ted Crilly, played by Dermot Morgan, from *Father Ted* taking third place.



Time for Tea

Tricia Wilson's latest creation; it's always time for tea in Tricia's garden!

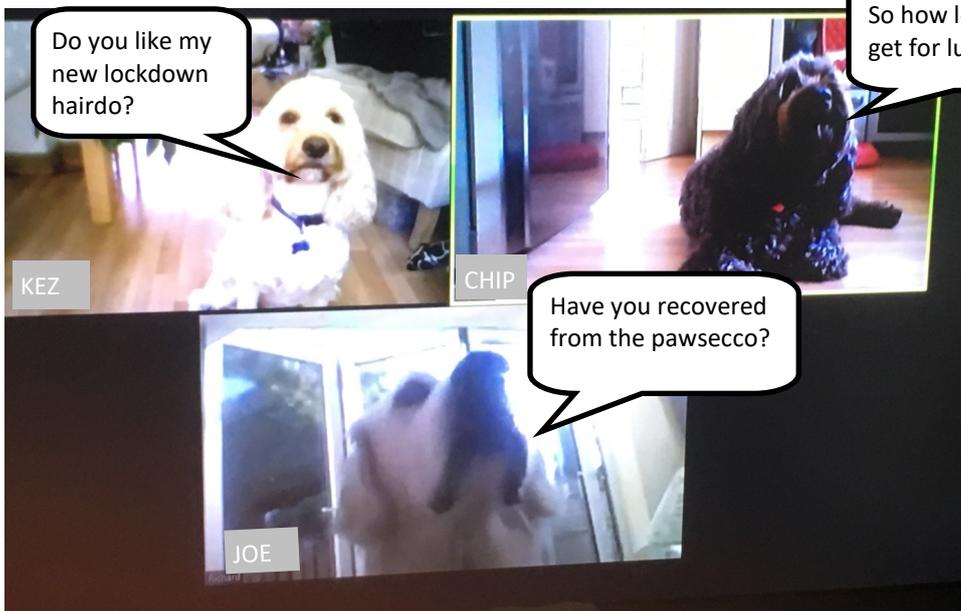


Church on the Railings

Peter Bradley has been kindly updating our railings with messages of hope



Church Office Recruits Deanery Networking Zoom Meeting



Know someone in Macclesfield Hospital currently?
 Helen Byrne the Methodist Minister and Chaplain for the hospital is keen to know if we have anyone in hospital currently that we know that she can visit (as the rules in hospitals permit for chaplains) and pray for.
 Please email Sue or ring 01625 421984.

Did you know...? Jenny Wild practices yoga and she has been sharing her talents with her swimming group by Zoom including fellow church member, and swimmer, Richard Johnson.



What are you up to in lockdown times? Please share it with us: email office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

A time to say **Thank You** to all our volunteers who contribute to the life of St Michael's mission and ministry



When I consider all the tasks and activities with which St Michael's is involved and the people we help as a result of these, most of these would not exist without our wonderful volunteers.

We are blessed with many volunteers in our church family who give freely of their time and talents helping others and sharing and expressing God's love. And even whilst our normal activities are suspended in lockdown, many are still offering their time and talents to support people through the pandemic.

So this is a special time to put our volunteers in the spotlight and say a

huge heartfelt THANK YOU for everything you do and the person God has created you to be. The danger, of course, of trying to list all the volunteer roles we have in church is that you might miss one, but we give thanks to you all, whatever the role is that you do voluntarily. I attempt to list as many as I can think of purely to give you a taste of the breadth and diversity of activity that goes on across our church and which might pique your interest to get involved too. These volunteering opportunities shape our church activities, our mission in this town and the people who encounter these activities but they also shape us. They give us a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose and improve our wellbeing. It gives us new skills and experiences and boosts our confidence.



Anyone can volunteer. It can be very rewarding and is a great way to:

- meet new people
- gain new or use existing skills
- get experience
- make a big difference to your community

Bellringers
Buildings team
Café volunteers (weekday & weekends)
Candelabra lighter
Choir
Church clean up and maintenance team
Church council and trustees
Church guide/trail developers & editors
Church office cover team when Sue is on leave
Communion assistants and those who do prayers and readings
Eco team
Events stewards
Flower team
Foundation Governors and Bollinbrook school helpers
Guide and Scout group leaders
Helpers in the office with printing and counting money
Home communion team
Home group leaders
Hospital Service team
Leadership team
Licensed lay readers and pastoral worker
Nightshelter team
Open the Book team
Pastoral network coordinators
Platform movers
Pray-ers and befrienders
Roots leaders
Rota co-ordinators
School liaison team who show school children around church
Social committee
Sound desk engineers
Storytellers
Street angels
Sunday welcome teams and weekday meeters and greeters
Team who plan and prepare craft activities for our children
Toddler Group leaders
Treasurer
Wardens and deputy wardens
Worship band
Youth Group leaders
You... yes **YOU!**

Macclesfield Parish Scout & Guide Groups



Our parish scout and guide groups under the excellent leadership of Mike Brown (Group Scout Leader) and his unit leaders are very much up and running online and still meeting regularly.

They are using the platform of Facebook Groups to keep connected as a community involving both young people and their parents and hosting their weekly meetings via Zoom.

These past couple of weeks they have run a photography badge for cubs and scouts (helped by Angela Raval sharing her passion for photography), an 'Adventures at Home Festival' for guides and their families, a family quiz for the whole community, a skills challenge badge for Beavers and the Rangers were challenged to make a Ranger Rover (Range Rover—other brands are available!) They even have a virtual Group AGM coming up on 11th June. And this Friday a Virtual Expedition to enable one of the Scouts to complete his Gold Scout Award.

Thank you to the efforts of all concerned to keep this community very much alive. And all these leaders are volunteers....

We continue to pray for you all.



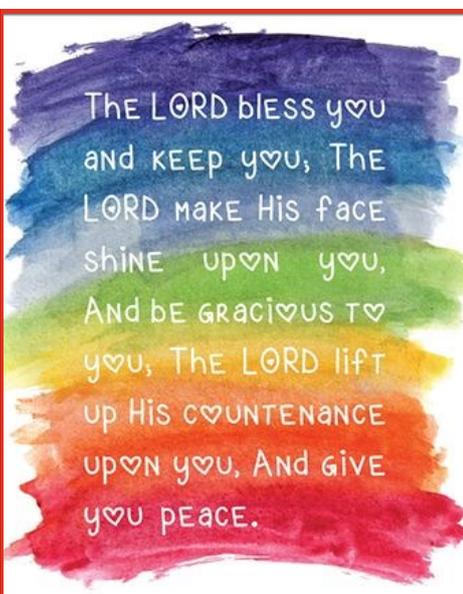
Photos for George's photography badge
Lynn, Roger, Zoe & George attend the 9.30 service



Harry's photos for his badge. You can see what brothers Harry and Isaac have been doing a lot of in lockdown! Harry, Isaac and mum and dad, Rachael and Russell attend the 9.30 service



Mike Brown, Group Scout Leader, and member of St Michael's, presenting his son Jervis with his silver scout award
Congratulations Jervis



We are using Zoom technology now for a number of purposes to keep church members connected and now have our own Zoom Pro account. **We are seeking volunteers** to help co-host Zoom meetings. If that sounds like something you are interested in, please contact [Martin](#) or [Sue](#)

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry →

£5 Donate	£10 Donate	£15 Donate
£20 Donate	£25 Donate	£50 Donate

Choose your own amount



Online giving now available

As our church buildings are closed, being able to receive donations through online giving has never been more crucial. Mike and Martin have now set this up for us to share widely on our website, newsletters, social media platforms etc. If you'd like to make a donation in this way, please click on the blue circle above.

Pentecost Prayers on the Railings

Many people are asking when the church building will be open for prayer. Sadly, we have not yet been given permission to open the building but we do have a plan ready to put into operation. Watch this space!

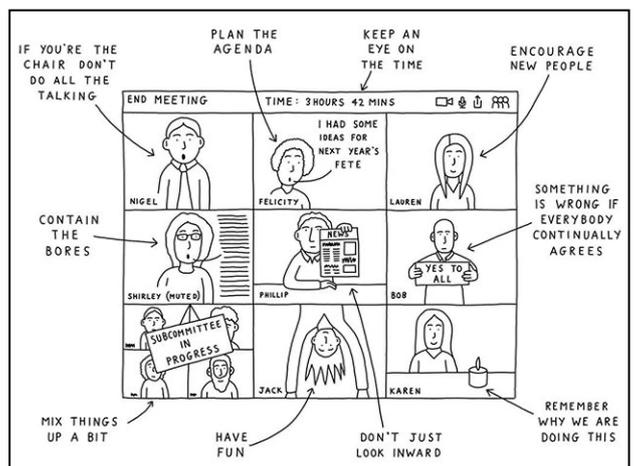
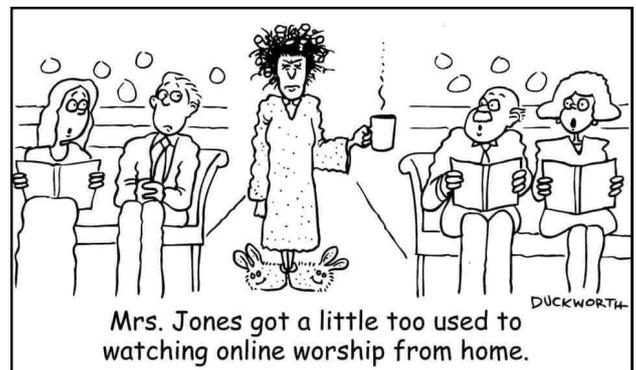
However, there is an opportunity for anyone to pray in a different way. We don't want to encourage the gathering of crowds and we don't expect this to happen. If you do come into town please come into the churchyard and add your prayers in the space just to the left of the church gates.

Don't write down your prayers, but instead add a ribbon or a piece of cloth to the display as a symbol of your prayer. God knows what your prayer is about and you don't need fancy words or indeed any words. The prayer is between you and God but other people will see the display and take encouragement from it.

Social distancing markers will be in place.

Thank you and God bless,

Tricia Atherton (Churchwarden)



Our next Church Council Meeting is on Tuesday 9th June by Zoom



5th June 2020

Many years ago, I was given a beautiful dark blue skirt from northern India. It was a mirror skirt with silver thread woven through it – and I loved it. Over the years it became a mottled mauve skirt and began to look worn and faded. I wished I had fixed the colour when I first had it. I have since discovered that colour fixing is so easy - providing you have salt.

Salt is amazing and dye-fixing is just one of its qualities; it is good for preserving and improving flavour. With bread, it strengthens a loaf's texture as it rises; it helps to bind food together and makes colour more vivid. Traditionally, it was used for healing and it's still good for treating wounds.

As we ask what Christians can do in the run up to COP26 climate summit (now postponed to 2021), we should remember that Jesus calls us to be salt (Matthew 5.13-16). This means that all those qualities of preserving, flavouring, holding things together, making communities brighter and more enduring and especially bringing healing, all make up our calling as we approach this.

Jesus calls us to be light. There is tremendous anxiety among those concerned for the environment and the term 'climate grief' is being used to describe the feelings of many who mourn the damage that humans have already done to the natural world and fear that the very worst will happen with runaway climate change.

As Christians, we have hope that one day creation will be renewed and restored. Being

Towards COP26: praying

Pray for:



Churches, like ours, who have acted on climate to go deeper with their commitments



Wisdom for politicians and the UN to know how to keep momentum going for action in this long term crisis



People in poverty who live with the reality of climate change impacts every day

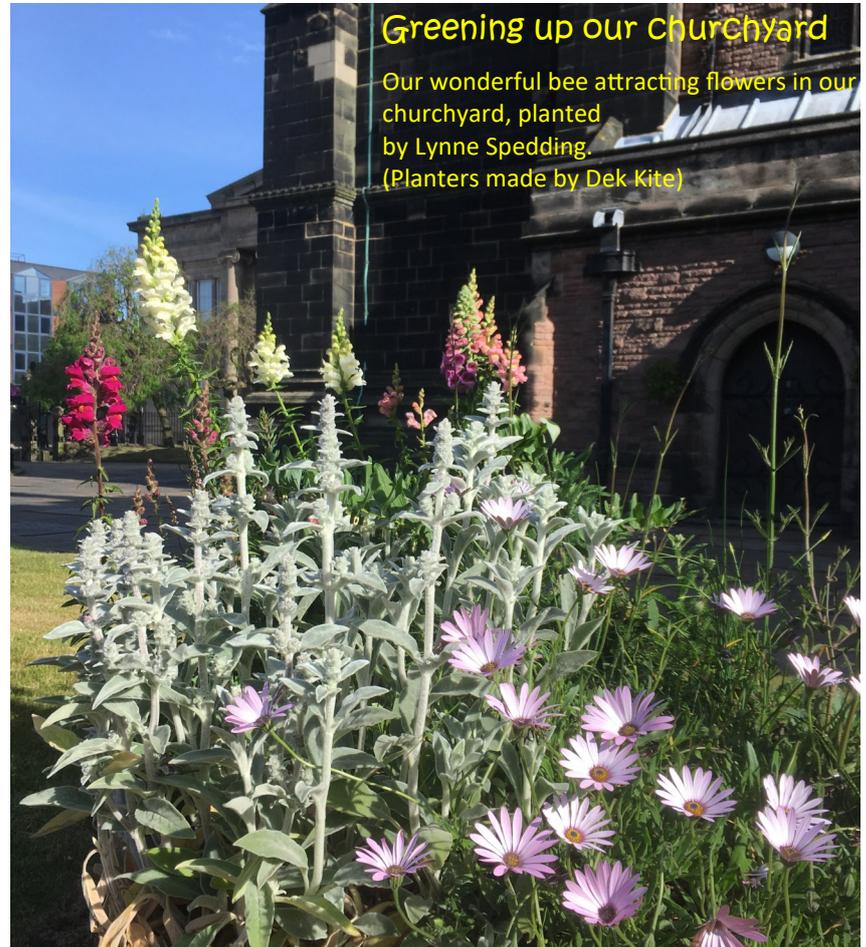


The extra time before COP to be used effectively by all parties - governments, churches, campaign groups, civil society



PM Boris Johnson in his key role as COP26 host for stamina and courage through this difficult preparatory year in leading countries to meaningful action in 2021

Faith communities are places where those small groups of thoughtful and committed citizens are found. We are not perfect. We are not uniform. But we are communities of hope whose values lead us to work for change ...to bring about a more sustainable world. *Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford*



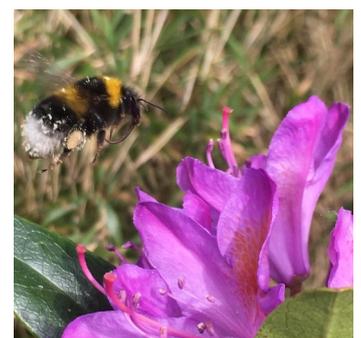
Greening up our Churchyard

Our wonderful bee attracting flowers in our churchyard, planted by Lynne Spedding. (Planters made by Dek Kite)

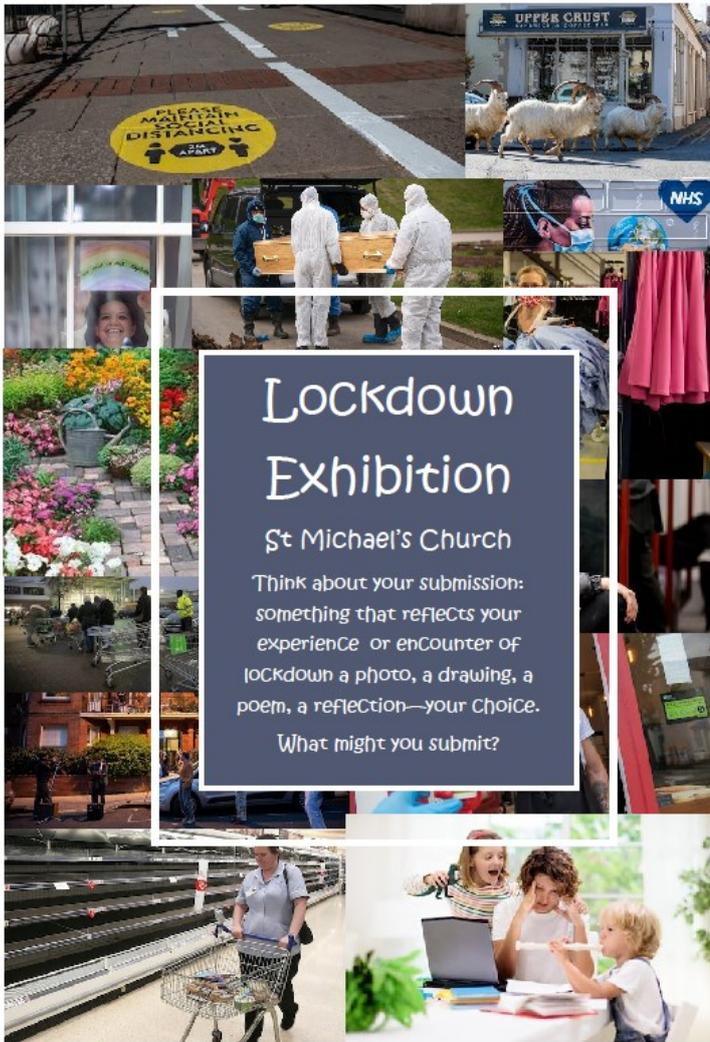
light means that something of that future hope can be made visible in the present – not in a way that denies the challenges of the present, where hope may be fading, nor 'other-worldly', simply looking to the future, and not engaging with the present. Being light means that our future hope gives us resilience to live now – whatever happens and however tough it gets. As things get darker, so even the smallest light becomes more visible

and can bring hope. So, in our local and online communities, work settings, networks and churches, let us be salt and light to an increasingly hurting world

Margot Hodson Director of Theology & Education at the John Ray Initiative and vicar in Oxfordshire. Reproduced from feature in *A Rocha UK publication Roots & Branches Spring/Summer 2020.*



Please [send me](#) your photos that celebrate God's world



Lockdown Exhibition

St Michael's Church

Think about your submission: something that reflects your experience or encounter of lockdown a photo, a drawing, a poem, a reflection—your choice.

What might you submit?

June's Prayer Now Out



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

June 2020

Romans 8: 26-27 ... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express, and he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8: 38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present or the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

At this time, with all places of worship closed and the comfort of regular

Enclosed with this newsletter

WE ARE NOT ALL IN THE SAME BOAT

BUT WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME STORM



SUPPORT EACH OTHER
#DONTJUDGE #BEKIND

STAY HOME AND PRAY



THANK YOU KEY WORKERS!



WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845

07958181927

10am - 4pm every day



READY TO LISTEN!



Are you a good listener?



Do you like to get alongside people who might be in need of a listening ear?

Can you just hear their story without needing to suggest solutions?

If so, great. Would you be willing to partake in a short training and work as part of a team to offer listening to anyone who comes into St Michael's after lock down who might be needing this? We would expect half a day a week to be about the commitment needed. Please get in touch, even if only tentatively interested at this stage. Email [Catherine Stephens](mailto:Catherine.Stephens)