



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart

 @stmikesmacclesfield

 www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

 Follow us on Instagram

Camino to Cop26



The 25 Caministas who walked through driving rain and cold winds to arrive at St. Michael's on Tuesday afternoon brought so much richness and inspiration; in their cheerfulness and courage, their passion and determination to share their fears and hopes, their love and respect for each other – and most of all their love for God's creation,

It is hard to sum up their wonderful contributions at the open meeting held later in the evening; so I am using the words shared by just one – a Muslim pilgrim called Aasia – describing the joys of pilgrimage and the power of their arguments;



Town Mayor David Edwardes wearing the Coat of Hopes

A nomadic but sustainable way of life has always attracted me. We want to travel and feel ourselves grow, become enlightened and enriched by experiences we wouldn't have in our own homes and towns. But often this wanderlust comes with a catastrophic environmental cost. Walking, cycling, kayaking, sailing and electric trains seem a thousand times more appealing than airports and jet-setting.

So when my Christian friends suggested an interfaith walk to Glasgow to mark this pivotal meeting to address the climate crisis it seemed such a beautiful, gentle yet powerful act of engagement and resistance. In walking we are rejecting the frenetic, consumerist, individualised ways that we have been conditioned to accept; adopting something far slower, more shared, communal and

rewarding. I have seen the landscape in an entirely new light as we traversed farmland, river valleys, stubbly fields and woods. Farmhands and fellow walkers were intrigued as we handed out leaflets.

Of many faiths and none, we were bound together with one purpose – to ask our leaders to step up to what this crisis needs and act with bold ambition and courage in moving away from business as usual.

I hope this will be the beginning of many such experiences of slow living and shared values. It's a wonderful way to move across the earth.



The departure of the pilgrims on Wednesday morning

We loved having the Caministas (so called after the Camino to Compostella, perhaps the best known of pilgrimage routes); thanks to Ali and her team for providing the wonderful evening meal, all made from surplus food; and to all those who contributed to an amazing and uplifting event.

More to follow!

The Collect for the 18th Sunday after Trinity

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3rd October 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Church Family Worship

Leader: Martin Stephens

Speaker: Martin Stephens

Reading: Mark 10:2-16

Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



Dorcas – a woman who took Christ's words literally

This Wednesday, in our discussion group we took a detour away from John's gospel and followed Judith's thought trail from last week when she suggested that maybe Miriam went to live with Dorcas. Who is Dorcas? What do you already know about her?

Dorcas is the Greek name for Tabitha and her story is told in Acts 9.36-42. Before you read this account just have a think about what you might already know about Dorcas.

(Pause here)

Dorcas was a disciple – a learner from Jesus, a key member of the community. She was well loved and her life was lived according to the teachings of Jesus. She was one of several women that Luke mentions by name in both the Gospel of Luke and in the Acts of the Apostles. Dorcas was a businesswoman – industrious, and compassionate. She lived her life by the words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel - 'I was naked and you clothed me' Matthew 7. 36 and in verse 40 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

She was a woman of means who chose to live amongst the widows – was she herself a widow? Probably. Her faith in Christ was shown by the works she did and she showed in her life the love of Christ – Matthew 7.16 And then she died.

But that wasn't the end of Dorcas' story because Peter was called for and a miracle occurred. We thought it was very interesting that Peter sent all the mourners out of the room and as Grace pointed out he then knelt down and had a concentrated time of prayer, before saying the words 'Tabitha get up'. Peter had seen Jesus do this (Luke 8. 49- 56) and thought he would try it! As Dek said – nothing ventured, nothing gained.

We had a very interesting chat about why this miracle occurred and Judith suggested that maybe Dorcas' life's work hadn't yet been finished so she was brought back because the community needed her. But this is a very sensitive area of thinking and we didn't pursue it further. We do get ourselves into some mental scrapes sometimes, but it is all fascinating to talk about with others.

If she had not died and been resuscitated would she be remembered to this day, 2000 years later ? Probably not.

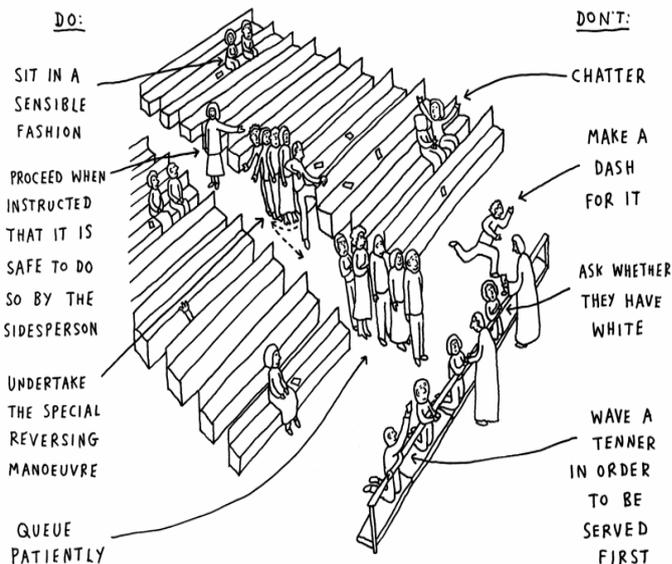
Our final question was Would Dorcas have welcomed the woman we talked about last week whom Kitey named Miriam? The answer? A resounding 'YES'

Next week we are staying with exploring characters in the book of Acts of the Apostles because this book records events that happened after the death and resurrection of Jesus. We will look at the character of Simon the Tanner and the social context in which he lived. As Judith says -the early Christians really did challenge the conventional wisdom of the day. Do feel free to join us by Zoom using the link on the back page of the newsletter.

Tricia Atherton

COMMUNION

DOS AND DON'TS



CartoonChurch.com

Remembering Service

Our Remembering Service this year will take place on **Sunday 17th October at 4PM.**

The Service is for anyone who has been bereaved, whether this be recently or in the past. We strongly welcome you to invite other people along who you feel may wish to attend this special service.



STOP PRESS!

The service **this Sunday** will include **Holy Communion** (for those **NOT** in *Storytelling* or *ROOTS*).



Communion will be administered as we have done a few times recently with a wafer being dipped before being placed on the communicant's palm (ie. no separate bread and cup). Martin and Catherine will be the administrators. For pastoral reasons we will use grape juice instead of Communion wine.

The platform has been rearranged to have a long edge at the front so that people come up for communion to the front edge of the platform only, not wrapped all around it. The choir will come up first. We will no longer send people up for communion via the centre aisle but from the right hand (south) side. People sitting on the north side of the nave will walk around the back of church.

Once people have taken communion they should return to their seats via the north aisle. In this way there should be less confusion, a more logical flow of people, and people should be able to receive reverentially and without rush.

If it would prove difficult to move all the way around the nave, please do make this known to one of the Welcome Team and Martin or Catherine will come to you in your seat after everyone else has received.

Martin

2021 Pilgrimage: Chester Cathedral to St Michael's, Macclesfield (by the scenic route)

Celebrating (belatedly) 800 years of worship on the site of St Michael's

This year the pilgrims reached their starting point most days by train, leaving their cars at the finishing point railway station. As we caught the same train three days on the run, the train driver and conductor got to know us!

Our journey began after a service in St Anselm's Chapel at Chester Cathedral, Taffy having used his special influence to gain access for us. It was the first of four lovely services, the remaining three taking place at the church which marked the end of the day's walking, with Day 5 ending at St Michael's during the morning service.

Every day we experienced beautiful countryside- mercifully flat - and almost constant sunshine, with just a brief shower on Day 4.

A long and a short walk were available each day, and an average of 10-12 pilgrims walked, with the make-up of the group changing from day to day.



The start, outside the West Door at Chester Cathedral

Highlights

Day 1 (Chester to Delamere) – we passed David and B Hobson's house (where some of us had enjoyed a lovely celebration of Margaret Eastwood's life only a few weeks earlier). A quick text message to B resulted in us enjoying our packed lunches in their beautiful garden.

Day 2 Delamere to Northwich) – the "damson walk". We came across so many wild damson trees along our route that David Mayers and I have both made a note to walk that stretch again next September to do some serious picking! As it was, we enjoyed nature's bounty as much as we could by eating the windfalls then and there and picking as many of the low-hanging fruit as we could easily carry for bringing home.

We also joined up with the short walk pilgrims at the amazing Anderton Boat Lift - a first for some of us. Our service was held in St Helen's Church, Northwich.

Day 3 (Northwich to Knutsford)– we came across some interesting features: one was a weird sighting which, unfortunately, kept re-appearing as we found ourselves on a winding boardwalk through marshy woodland, not realising that we were being led in circles!

With greater delight, we saw this amazing wood carving, at least 20' tall.

Occasionally our route took us through some tight places - see Ruth emerging through a hedge (photograph below).

The day's service was held at St John the Baptist Church, Knutsford.

Day 4 (Knutsford to Prestbury) - my blisters were now raw and bleeding (a true pilgrim!), but, annoyingly, others seemed in excellent foot-health. We were getting into familiar territory now, walking through Styal Country Park and along the Bollin Valley to Prestbury.

We received a warm welcome at St Peter's Church, enjoying tea and biscuits in the churchyard, then went into the wonderful Norman Chapel for our service.

Day 5 (Prestbury to Macclesfield) - of course, this was a mere amble, and it was lovely for the whole group to set off together, with the addition of Emma (Kingdom) whom we serendipitously chanced upon in the Prestbury car-park!

We arrived at church through the bustling Treacle Market, and felt a great sense of achievement and camaraderie as we entered St Michael's!



Outside the West Door of St Michael's



The very tall and stately tree-lady



Some fantastic fungi caught our eye

Sincere thanks to Paul Simms, Taffy Davies and Paul Spedding for organising this pilgrimage, and to all who took part on any or all of the days.

Lynne Spedding

Hello St Michael's



Some of you I know, but more of you I have yet to meet so this is a brief introduction.

I am Jenny Eades, a member of St Peter's for the past 15 years or so. As I mentioned on Sunday, I am thankful to God that I have become a student once more! Having been recommended via the magic of a Zoom BAP (Bishop's Advisory Panel) to train for ordination in the Church of England, I study part-time at The Queens Foundation theological college in Birmingham.

During our training we are asked by Queens to do some (but not too much) at our home churches. Because I have been part of the leadership team at St Peter's for quite a number of years Martin and I agreed that, to extend my experience, it would be good for me to gain experience at St Michael's too. So, from this month, I will be around most (but not all) Sundays at St Michael's from now on.

I also tend to be around on Thursday mornings so will get to know some of you then.

Otherwise, I am married to Nick, have David and Charles still at home and Annwyn married to Andrew in Edinburgh (much too far away, especially in a pandemic).

I have worked in education all my working life. I am now a teacher of the Alexander technique; I like making bread, running, knitting, and board games :) I also ring bells, but St Michael's bells are currently a long way out of my comfort zone!

I look forward to meeting more of you soon and getting to know life at St Michael's.

With love

Jenny

Living in Love and Faith (LLF)



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

How do questions about Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage fit within the bigger picture of the Good News of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is a new resource from the Church of England. Its purpose is to encourage us to **ponder, listen and learn together**, to help each of us engage with the contemporary issues of gender, sexuality and relationships. It is about being open together to hearing what God is saying to the Church of England today.

St Michael's is joining with people from St Peter's, Holy Trinity and St Christopher's churches locally for this initiative (it is intended we stay in our own church groups for any groupwork). The 5 sessions are on Wednesday evenings, starting 7.30pm on 13th October (with a break for half term).

We are going to follow the LLF course materials (videos and discussion questions) for each session and ensure that the environment is one of listening and learning from the material and each other, and not a presentation of individual course members' views, or making policy for the churches' position, etc.

This is just for those who want to engage in the listening and learning discussion. For the sake of continuity and trust as we go through the course, we are asking people both to book on if they would like to come and to commit to attending at least 4 of the 5 sessions.

For accommodation reasons we may have to limit numbers, so please can you express to Porsche your desire to participate? (I expect that we will repeat the opportunity in the new year.)

Martin

Rehabilitation Coaching

We are recruiting volunteers!

Are you passionate about your community and want to make a difference?
Do you have experience of the Criminal Justice system?

Join our 5 day accredited Rehabilitation Coach training course and volunteer with Emerging Futures!

Support individuals towards desistance, increased resilience, and wellbeing with the goal of living successful lives free of addiction and offending.

Find out more:

Call 07722 152 995 or ceastrecoverysupport@emergingfutures.org.uk

**EMERGING
FUTURES**
creating opportunities for change

emergingfutures.org.uk

Emerging Futures is a Community Interest Company
Company registration number 8938725

The Coat of Hopes

On Sunday evening, Paul and I drove to Leek to meet the *Camino to Cop* Pilgrims at St Edward's Church, and pick up the Coat of Hopes so that, while the Pilgrims enjoyed a rest day on Monday, a group of stitchers here in Macc could spend the day repairing it (it is suffering some wear and tear on its journey) and adding a backlog of patches which had built up.



Lynne toasts the workers with a cup of tea!

Here are some photos of the small group at work in my conservatory. Notice that my job was to oversee the workers, and drink tea!

We were such an efficient team that we finished work by lunchtime, so everyone left and thus missed the opportunity to meet Barbara Keal - the creative force behind the Coat - when she arrived in the afternoon to collect it from my house. My hours of being overseer were now over, however, as Barbara brought more patches for me to sew on - so I ended up doing my bit!

On Tuesday evening, when the group of Pilgrims arrived at church, things became ceremonial and even somewhat ritualistic as



Chris, Janet (from Sutton), and Rosemary (from Bollington) hard at work in Lynne's conservatory.



Barbara wearing the Coat as patches are pinned on

the Coat made its entrance into the building and the Pilgrims sang its special song! Then everyone who had made a patch pinned their patch onto the coat and said a few words about what had inspired them. This took rather a long time, and we "stitchers" were getting anxious that we wouldn't be able to stitch all the new patches onto the coat before the end of the evening. We needn't have worried - the formidable team of Chris Wightman and Janet Parkinson (from Sutton), assisted in fumbling manner by myself, completed the task in good time.

Others will write about the formal meeting when local "dignitaries" and members of the public came to meet the Pilgrims and hear about the aims of this initiative. We stitchers missed that, as we remained in the upstairs room working hard.

Overall this has been for me at times a baffling and frustrating project - but also ultimately very wonderful and quite moving. One lovely aspect is that we have made new friends from around Macclesfield. The Coat is indeed a thing of beauty already. We hope to see it again when in its finished state, and will certainly look out on the news to see whether any global leaders do accept the challenge to try it on! (They will need to be tall - Barbara is 6'4" and the coat trails behind *her!*).



Chris on the production line of sewing on patches



Chris, Sallie and Martin (with Janet) view the Coat on the table

Here are some of the St Michael's patches which are now part of the Coat of Hopes



Lynne Spedding

Let us Pray...



Have you noticed there is no prayer letter this month? This has recently been covered by Rachel and we thank you so much for this. However, given that life, church and events are getting back to normal again, this is yet another commitment alongside Rachel also being Churchwarden, and temporarily covering the role of buildings and booking coordinator.

Therefore, we would really appreciate a volunteer to create the Prayer Letter on a monthly basis. If you are willing to commit the time and believe you would be able to offer your help with this, please contact Rachel in the office to discuss it further.

Thank you.

Porsche

Happy Birthday!



Wednesday Prayer Group enjoying coffee and cake to celebrate Grace's birthday.

How to contact the Office...



Phone—Landline—01625 421 984

Mobile— 07579 820 265 (on Thursdays when Porsche is working from home)

Email— clergypa@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.

SAVE THE DATE!!!



Thankyou for your interest in the work of Village Rwanda UK. Even through this internationally difficult year the determined folk in the village have made significant steps forwards and we want to share this news with you.

Our Annual Meeting with afternoon tea will be held on **Saturday 9th October 2021** at St Michaels in the Marketplace, Macclesfield at 3pm.

For more information please contact **Tricia Atherton** at villagerwandauk@gmail.com

YOUTH WORSHIP EVENT

AMPLIFIED

10/10/21

7.00 - 8.15 pm

TFW CHURCH

WHO IS JESUS?

For anymore information on "Amplified", please contact Catherine Stephens (01625 426110)

Church Flowers

We are grateful for the beautiful pink roses and blue Eriogonum flowers in the Worship Area graciously given by Audrey and Helen Evans.



In memory of their beloved Jane
6th March 1963 - 28th September 2011.

Thank you.

The glorious chrysanthemum blooms on the right side of the Worship Area have been given by Michael Wootton in loving of memory of his parents and also the parents of Muriel.

Thank you Michael.

Kitey

"Erm... Hello Ma'am, Boris here.
I heard you drove trucks during the war..?"



Music@Mike's



Friday 1st October

Julian Smith (piano recital)

Both concerts are at 1.15pm.

Refreshments including soup and/or a full lunch will be available from the Angel At My Table café both before and after the concert.

As usual entrance is free but donations will be welcomed.



Friday 8th October

Imogen Garner (soprano)



TLC—Thursday Listen and Chat

For those who find socializing in the evening difficult due to lack of transport or feel uncomfortable going out alone particularly during the dark winter evenings, then come along to TLC.



Enjoy a relaxing hour with a cuppa. Meet and make new friends in a safe and comfortable environment. There will be no agenda. Why not have a meal first in our "Angel at My Table" café?

Based in St. Michael's Church **every other Thursday afternoon 2-3pm**. The first meeting will take place on Thursday 7th October. Throughout October, the meeting will take place in the Chancel of St. Michael's and move through to the Youth Centre thereafter.

If there is enough interest, we will continue into 2022 with dates to follow.

For further information contact either Grace (01625 430 348) or Alexa (01625 429 727)

HomeGroup Restarting!



The first Tuesday evening each month. Contemplative Prayer for half an hour followed by a cup of tea and cake! Resuming on **Tuesday 5th October at 7PM**. Meeting will be held at Bernice's House (64 Lansdowne Street, Macclesfield, SK10 2QZ)

Contact Bernice on 01625 422 857 for more information.

Join us for

Worship



St Michael's Worship 3rd October 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

**Church Family Communion at 10.00am:
live in church / streamed later on Youtube**

Youtube link will be sent out via email after the Service

Service Leader: Martin Stephens

Talk: Martin Stephens

Reading: Mark 10:2-16

Eventually (once any hiccups have been ironed out) the Youtube stream will be live and the link will be posted here so watch this space!

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

30th September—Midweek Morning Prayer

7th October —Midweek Morning Communion

(and then alternate thereafter...)

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



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

Professional Telephone
Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845

0300 3034 566

Open Every day



**READY TO
LISTEN!**



Giving to the work and
worship of St Michael's

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



Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Coffee & Chat



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.

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.



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

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



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

