



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on  
Instagram



I had the privilege last week of going to Chester Cathedral for the enthronement of our 'new' diocesan bishop, Mark Tanner. You can watch the complete service [here](#), or just +Mark's excellent address [here](#).

In spite of the peculiarities of corporate worship during

the pandemic, it was a very good and moving occasion. +Mark spoke with clarity and conviction about our personal and corporate calling as Christians to be 'Jesus-shaped Good News' to those we encounter in our daily lives.

Does this phrase, 'Jesus-shaped Good News', sound scary? Does it make you think 'it's not me!?' I hope not!

It got me thinking about St Michael's and the many people we encounter as a church community. With lockdown restrictions having been lifted somewhat, there have been so many people around the church, either visiting for private prayer, or looking around, or sat outside on the benches or grass area. We really are a well-situated church for meeting people!

Indeed just this week I contributed to a diocesan training webinar, speaking of our experience of 'simply' opening our doors and finding that people come in. Together with the archdeacon and a representative from our insurers, we shared stories of people finding acceptance, friendship, help, and God. Simply by being open to the public, people's lives are touched and changed. Being 'Jesus-shaped Good News' doesn't have to be difficult!

If we look at this being 'Jesus-shaped Good News' as a corporate thing - something we do together - it becomes a lot less daunting. Very rarely in the New Testament do we see people doing things on their own. I love being part of a team, don't you? The sense of camaraderie and mutual support is great.

With many of our activities starting up again, there is a lot we can get involved with. I'm sure you're aware of the amazing group of Stewards that have enable St Michael's to be open every day since [last](#) July. To continue this, please offer if you can do a 11-1pm time slot any weekday.

Also, as highlighted in last week's newsletter, our new-style café will open in August. We will operate as previously, with hot drinks and biscuits/ teacakes Mon-Weds; then a new venture - Surplus Food Café - (still looking for a name) will open Thurs-Sat for longer hours and will serve cooked lunches and cakes as well as drinks. With Ali Griffen (whom you may know from St Peter's) agreeing to manage this, if you would like to get involved with the team on any day please get in touch through the church office.

There are opportunities to join other 'teams' too. Toddler Group, which has been a real success for many years at St Michael's needs new leaders and helpers. The tasks include getting toys out, making drinks, doing a craft, singing nursery rhymes, and generally being friendly to young parents and children. It's a great way to 'stay young'!

Our Church school of Bollinbrook is looking for people who can sit and listen to children read; something very manageable to most people, but oh so helpful to the child's development. Get in touch with Martin, or the school direct (01625 789 089).

With the bells once again ringing to call people to worship, maybe that's a team you'd be interested in joining? Or the choir, or the music group, or helping welcome baptism families, or help lead a course for new Christians, or run the Bible Course for others, or join the welcoming team on Sundays, or the pastoral and Home Communion teams, offering as a school governor, a Guide or Scout leader, helping plan our worship, joining the Start the Week team ... you get the idea!



I imagine it could feel quite draining just reading this list (and there'll be more opportunities I haven't listed). Being Jesus-shaped Good News is something every Christian is called to be; I reckon it's easier and more enjoyable doing and being so with others, so please consider how you might get involved.

*\* Actually Mark Tanner has been fulfilling the role of Diocesan Bishop for many months, but without the formality of having been 'installed' in his 'cathedra', the bishop's teaching seat - from which we get the word 'cathedral'.*

With Every Blessing,

4th July 2021

**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

**Sunday Morning Worship**

**Leader:** Rev'd Martin Stephens

**Speaker:** Lynne Spedding

**Bible Reading:** Mark 6:1-13

## Church buildings case study report

A case study report featuring 14 parishes (one of them being us!) in the Diocese of Chester that have each redeveloped their church buildings and halls to support their local vision for mission, has been published by Church House.



Each case study tells the story of how church buildings and halls were redeveloped and, importantly, why parishes did this to support their vision and mission. Each case study offers examples of the difference or impact it has made to the local ministry and mission. The report is aimed at all parishes and PCCs, particularly those who are actively considering how their church building can play a role in local mission. The case study report is offered as a way of developing a "reflective learning culture" in the diocese and the churches featured in the report have been open and willing to share their experiences for the benefit of supporting and encouraging others. Please refer to Pages 20-23 in the case study for our feature and details of our redevelopment.

"Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them."

*Elisabeth Elliot*

### The Collect for the 5th Sunday after Trinity

*Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## New Opportunity to Serve God

Are you:

- enthusiastic
- outgoing
- fun-loving



St Michael's **Toddler Group** has new vacancies ready to be filled!

You will be part of a friendly, dynamic and dedicated team that meets on a Thursday morning (term time only). We look forward to meeting you very soon!

Please contact

Ruth Parker 01625 613068 or 07732 215290

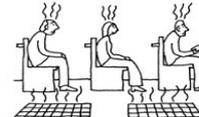
Alexa Stenhouse 01625 429727

## THE SUMMER



IT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO WASTE THE WHOLE DAY...

EARLY MORNING SERVICES BECOME POPULAR



THE HEATING FINALLY STARTS WORKING



A RELIEF CONGREGATION IS BROUGHT IN TO COVER ABSENTEES



PARISH PICNICS TAKE PLACE



THERE ARE NOT AS MANY E-MAILS



MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH SEND POSTCARDS

CartoonChurch.com



## Music@Mike's: Change of Date

Thursday 15th July

In a change to the published programme, Adam Parrish will be giving our final concert, a piano recital, on Thursday 15th July (NOT Friday 9th)

**Start time:** 1.15pm

**Length:** approximately 45 minutes

**Admission:** free



Unfortunately refreshments are not possible at the moment owing to Covid restrictions.

Donations may be made to the East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's.



Bollinbrook currently has the following vacancies:

**Midday Assistants**

Please click [this link](#) for details

**Site Maintenance Officer**

Please click [this link](#) for details

**Opportunities for learning, growth and development**

*Foundations for Ministry*

Discover your gifts and calling while learning with others. This course is open to anyone who wants to grow and develop in Christian ministry in the Church



and in the wider world. It forms the first year of training for Reader and Pastoral Worker ministries. The next course will begin in late September, running in an exciting new format from previous years with the inclusion of online learning sessions. To register your interest, email [ministry@chester.anglican.org](mailto:ministry@chester.anglican.org)

*Have you recently completed a Foundation degree in Mission and Ministry?*

In partnership with the University of Chester, we are able to offer a top-up course leading to a bachelor's degree in Theology (BTh) to Readers who have completed the Foundation degree. The course lasts 2-3 years. If you are interested, we would like to hear from you by 31 July 2021. Please contact [Jane Hood](#) to register your interest, or [Liz Shercliff](#) if you would like to arrange a conversation about the course.

**This is Timeless...**

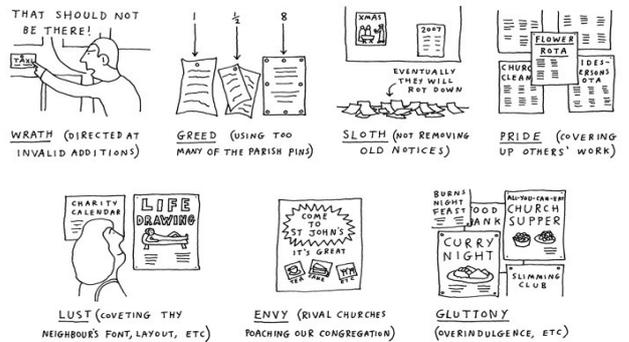
And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.



*Thanks to Michael Wootton for sending in this poem which was written in 1869 and reprinted during the 1919 pandemic.*

**CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS**

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



CartoonChurch.com

**Youth Speak**



The diocese continues to seek young people aged between 10 and 18 to join the Youth Speak forum and to be involved in growing and changing the church. Find out how young people in your parish could [become a part of Youth Speak](#) and make a difference.

**Sageguarding Update**



Porsche has recently completed her training on the DBS system so please contact [clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk) for all DBS updates or enquiries. As always Gemma is the contact for all safeguarding queries/concerns/disclosures and she can be contacted on [g.r.shepherd-etchells@gmx.com](mailto:g.r.shepherd-etchells@gmx.com)

## July Poetry Break

08 July 2021 - Online

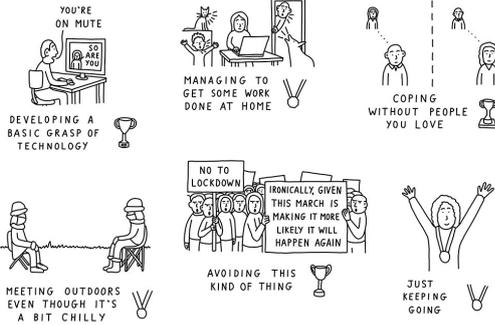
Poetry Break is on the second Thursday of the month. It was started as a response to the restrictions of the pandemic and continues to meet online.

Click [this link](#) for more information.



## MEDALS AND TROPHIES

THAT YOU'VE DESERVED THIS YEAR



## Bellringing News

Our bell ringers are planning to join the nationwide ringing as part of **NHS, SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY** on Monday (5th July) at 8pm. They are hoping to ring the back 6 bells, the first ringing on these magnificent heavy bells for a very long time! We hope you can join in by clapping on your doorsteps at the same time to show your support for all our keys workers during these trying times.



## Cafe donations and volunteer form



As we progress with our plans to open the expanded cafe on Thursdays to Saturdays from the beginning of August, there are some things we need for the kitchen, which we would be pleased to receive cash donations towards. Please contact [Porsche](#) in the office for the details.

We have also created a volunteer form. If you are an existing cafe volunteer, there is no need to complete it. Please note that the details requested, including two references, reflect the fact that we want to cast the net widely for volunteers and thus will include people we do not already know. Again, please contact [Porsche](#) for a copy of the volunteer form.

Thanks,

Garrie Naden on behalf of the Café Management Committee  
(Porsche's email address is [clergyppa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergyppa@maccteam.org.uk))



## Wednesday Morning Coffee and Chat

This week we have been talking about another character in John's gospel. Heather prepared some thoughts for us and these led to a fascinating discussion on the character of the Royal Official who came to ask Jesus to heal his son. John chapter 4. Verses 43-54. This man was an important, relatively wealthy official in Herod's court. He had tried everything to get healing for his son, but all his money could not help him in this situation. He was desperate and, in his desperation, he walked for two days from Capernaum to Cana where he knew Jesus was staying.

The people there had welcomed Jesus because they were expecting more signs and wonders – like a bit of a circus act. They had already seen what he could do in Cana of Galilee - changing water into wine – what could be better than that? But this time Jesus was not going to be their sideshow, so when the man came asking for healing for his son, Jesus simply said 'Go, your son will live' ... and the man took Jesus at his word and departed. He just did what Jesus told him to do and, on the way home, the servants met him and told him that his son was healed. The nameless official knew that the miracle had happened at the same time as he had been talking to Jesus the day before. So, Jesus helped the man and his child but the crowd did not get the show they were looking for.

This sparked a discussion about the basis of our faith.

- Do we only spend time with God when we need God's help? If so, that's ok because Jesus is gracious and will respond in some way, but how much more joy and peace could we receive if we spent time with God even in the easy times?
- Do we always expect signs and wonders – do we believe them when they happen or is life just a series of coincidences?

Dek asked a very interesting question – Have we created heaven for ourselves in our lives or Have we created hell for ourselves in our lives?

Every day we have the opportunity to work out our own salvation, to live out the kingdom of God here on earth. We have a choice. Like the nameless but unforgotten man in our character study today who chose to believe Jesus and act on his words.

Next week Kitey is preparing some thoughts on Judas Iscariot, without whom there would have been no crucifixion. Now that will be an interesting discussion. Please do join us we like ideas that are out of the box, and there is no judgement in this group, just say what you're thinking. Click on the coffee cup on the back page of the newsletter.

Look forward to seeing you

**Tricia Atherton**



St Michael's Church is open daily 11am-1:00pm for private prayer

## A Leo's Thoughts.



I'm so happy when the sun is out,  
for that's my star up in the sky,  
Its warmth brings forth the best of things;  
but, as the years have drifted by,  
I've thought that its Creator's role  
was forged from purpose in His mind  
To plant, upon this earth of ours,  
a creature strangely called Mankind.

And what to us are days and weeks,  
and months grown swiftly into years,  
They are just but a glimpse of time  
before our destiny appears.  
So, on each lovely sunny day,  
I offer up a thankful prayer  
for being part of this design, so great  
it is beyond compare.

It is not our to question why,  
but (famously) to do and die.

D. Bentley Smith

*Thank you to Dorothy who has written another lovely poem for us to share .*

## Reflection...

**In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful. –Alice Walker**

## An anecdote from David Smith...



A landlord bought a dog, but is cross with it because the family pet keeps knocking bottles and drinks bought by customers off the bar, so he has the dog's tail amputated and put in a glass case behind the bar. The dog is then a popular pet with all the customers, but eventually it dies of old age. The dog goes up to heaven and St. Peter, at the pearly gates says to the dog, "Sorry, we can't let dogs in without tails, so the dog thinks "I was a good pet, I'm sure my owner will give me my tail back now that I'm dead"? So he goes back to the pub in the dead of night, knocks at the door and says to the landlord, Please sir, I've been a good dog all my life, may I now have my tail back now after all these years? The landlord replied "You daft dog, you should know by now we can't retail spirits after 10.30pm

*Thank you David, Let's see what you can come up with for next week!*

## Children's Minister Vacancy



Holy Trinity Church, Hurdsfield are currently recruiting for a Children's Minister.

20 hours a week starting ideally in September.  
All the details of the vacancy and any more information is on their website: <http://www.hthmacc.com/childrens-minister.html>

## Cricket

St Michael's CC next home game is a re-match against Tytherington Family Worship on Tuesday 13th July, 6.30pm at Kerridge CC on Clarke Lane. TFW will be keen to avenge their 1 run defeat in our first game.

Spectators welcome.



## Seasonal Recipe for July

### Strawberry galette with clotted cream

#### Ingredients

- 320g sheet all-butter puff pastry
- 200ml crème fraîche
- 227g clotted cream
- 1tbsp lemon juice
- 3 x 400g punnets English strawberries, hulled
- 2-3tbsp icing sugar



#### Method

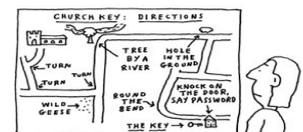
1. Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Unfurl the pastry, lift it onto a baking sheet (using its greaseproof sheet makes this easier), then prick all over with a fork. Bake for 15 minutes until the surface is brown and semi-risen. Use a spatula to flip the pastry. Press down to flatten and return to the oven for a further 5-10 minutes until flaky and golden. Slip onto a wire rack to cool.
2. In a large bowl, mix together the crème fraîche and cream, then add the lemon juice. Stir a few times until thick but still floppy - it will thicken further as it stands.
3. When you are ready to serve the galette, spread the cream over the pastry. Set aside 200g of the strawberries and neatly arrange the rest to cover the cream. Liquidise the remaining strawberries, then sieve the purée over a bowl, pushing it through with a wooden spoon. Scrape under the sieve so that nothing is wasted. Discard the pips in the sieve.
4. To serve, swirl the purée over the tart, then dust it with icing sugar as desired.

## WEEKDAYS

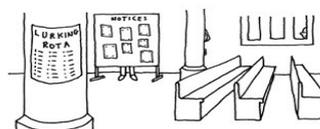
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CHURCH BUILDING



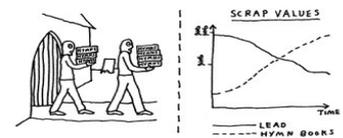
LOCK IT



LEAVE A KEY SOMEWHERE



LEAVE IT OPEN, BUT MONITORED



LEAVE IT ENTIRELY UNATTENDED

CartoonChurch.com

Join us for  
*Sunday Worship*



**St Michael's Worship 4th July 2021**

**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
Merged service this week 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: Rev'd Martin Stephens  
Talk: Lynne Spedding  
Reading: Mark 6:1-13



**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** 

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm using same Here is the link to the Zoom meeting; <https://zoom.us/j/96162804573?pwd=V3Z2dWpMZIR6Mjg1eUVVQjBWbzQ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 961 6280 4573  
Passcode: 838197

All are welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone. Please contact David Mayers by [email](#) or phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659. 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



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



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

