



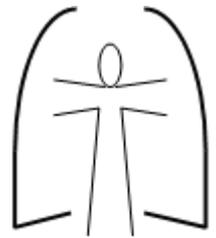
@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Open Door



As I write this, just after the feast of St Michael and All Angels, I'm very aware that we're in a new season. It's definitely Autumn!

Yes, there are some lovely things to enjoy, such as the stunning colours of the Virginia Creeper by the Rectory door (*do call round to look if you like!*). And then there are the not-so-lovely things, like the colder, wetter weather.

In many ways it also feels to me like we're in a new season here in church too, not least as we've realised that this 'Covid challenge' is with us into the New Year. Consequently this 'season' in the Church's calendar – Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas – is going to have a new, and very different, face to it in 2020.

“Do not cling to events of the past, or dwell on what happened long ago.

Watch for the new thing I am going to do.”

Isaiah 43:18f

You have done well at adapting to a multitude of changes since March; we need to continue forward with this creative and 'can-do' mindset. Some of you have offered to do new things, such as stewarding during the week, delivering newsletters, keeping in touch with church members by phone, etc. I've also been encouraged by the responses to the message in last week's newsletter for more volunteers to take part in our Sunday services. That's been great to see, thank you.

However, just as some of our younger members are attending new schools, starting college, or heading off to university, I wonder if you've a desire for a new challenge?

I imagine you'll join me in being delighted that Garrie Naden and Sue Reid have done just that, by beginning the 'Foundations for Ministry' course, run by the diocese. It's a mind-stretching, faith-stretching commitment but I'm convinced they'll benefit greatly from it. Hopefully they'll enjoy it too!

God honours people when they're willing to 'step out' for Him, to do something which is beyond them because of their faith. From experience I can say that God will use this personal growth in surprising ways in the future.

“Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord their God.” Psalm 146:5

It's too late for you to start 'Foundations' this year (maybe next?!), or maybe you feel it's not currently where you're at. However, I do encourage you to consider whether or not you might do a NEW thing this season. There are MANY opportunities in church life you could consider just now:

- Inside this newsletter four essential roles are described ahead of our Annual Meeting on 18th October
- It's not too late to contribute to one of the Strategic Objective groups arising from our Vision Day, focusing on Encounter, Nurture and Sustainability
- We've been invited to host an Advent Window as part of the town's Christmas celebrations
- And then there are the new Christmas services to plan, record, and get 'out there'!

So please get involved. Please bring your ideas, abilities and creative skills. In this 'new season', as we do just that, may we experience God not only blessing our endeavours together but our very selves!

God bless you as you bless Him,

Our Sunday services

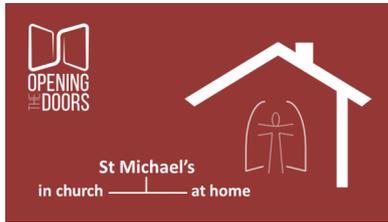
These past two weeks we've trialled a simpler and less stressful system for our online and in-the-building worship. It's worked well, but it's still pretty resource-intensive to manage, particularly regarding the tech side of things. Keeping things under review, further changes may ensue but please be assured that I want our worship to be as inclusive and accessible as possible.



St Michael's Worship 4th October 2020

Two services this week both at 10am:
one in church and one on Zoom

To join by Zoom click on the image below or use
Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625



Service Leader: Rachel Mayers
Talk: David Mayers
Reading: Leviticus 25.1-12 & 23-24

This week's service is themed around Jubilee to mark
St Francis' Day and the end of the Season of Creation.

Both services will include elements which are the same.

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:

October Prayer Letter now out

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults and families: click [here](#)

Resources for children: click [here](#)

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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: 14th & 28th October

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 meet via Zoom at 7.30pm. We have
completed our study of Luke's Gospel and are
holding discussions of our respective faith
journeys. 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

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's
ministry



ONLY ONLINE CONFERENCE



ECO CHURCH: WORKING TOGETHER TO NET ZERO

An online conference for churches of all denominations to learn how Eco Church can help them cut their carbon and care for creation. Key note speakers. Workshops. Networking.
ONLINE ATTENDANCE: £5 donation to A Rocha UK.

SAT 10 OCT, 10am-4pm
Run by St Albans Diocese and A Rocha UK
Hosted virtually from All Saints', Leighton Buzzard



0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Music @ Mike's Autumn Lunchtime Concerts

**Thursday 8th October
1.15pm**




Pianist Ivan Hovorun
Making a much anticipated return visit to St Mike's

**Thursday 15th October
1.15pm**




Pianist Adam Parrish

Back in the Building

As you can see I have been back in the Church Office this week as we have had a hirer using our first floor room to deliver a training course for people training in the construction industry. The Job Centre contracts with this trainer to deliver core skills to support unemployed individuals into work in construction, which is one area which is doing well, even in the current climate. They were in for four days and it all went very well with our risk assessment put to the test to ensure we had all the control measures in place to ensure they were in a Covid secure building. We also have KEMs choir rehearsing on Monday nights using the Worship Area and from next week, our own choir will be rehearsing back in the building, again using the Worship Area to ensure the necessary social

distancing measures can be achieved. We also have a counselling group who had just started using our building before lockdown, who have been meeting outside in a park each week to ensure continuity for their clients, but now it's getting darker and colder in the evenings, they were keen to get back inside, so we are pleased to be able to welcome them back. Sadly given the restrictions in place regarding baptisms, most of the baptisms that we had started to consider rescheduling have now postponed to next year. I will be back in the home office with my fluffy co-workers next week.

Thank you again to Lynne for producing an excellent newsletter



while I was away. And thank you to the additional distributors who ensured the hard copy newsletters were delivered for me: Pam, Mike, Ruth, Vicky, David and Ralph.

The Annual Church Meeting 18th October 2020

Vacancy: Churchwardens

Both Paul Simms and Tricia Atherton are stepping down as wardens at our annual church meeting.

Churchwardens are the eyes and ears of the church and play a valuable and important part of church life.

The churchwardens are 'officers of the Bishop of the Diocese'. Their duties are set out and discharged by law and custom assigned to them; they represent the laity and support the wellbeing of the vicar. "They shall also maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of the service." Beware the only ones with the powers to throw people out of church!!

In a large busy church like ours, this role may seem a little daunting but we aim to have two wardens who are then supported by a team of deputy wardens. Along with Sue in the Church Office and the Church Council and the back up and support from the Diocese with resources, information etc., there is plenty of support available to guide and steer. There is also training provided by the Diocese for all new wardens.

Tricia and Paul are both very happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in considering this role. They have been doing the role for some time so have built up a good knowledge and understanding of the role. Do please talk to them.

Nominations can be made to Martin directly or via the Office. You can complete the nomination form yourself but you will need a proposer and seconder to sign the form as well as yourself. If you propose to nominate someone else, please make sure you discuss this nomination with the person concerned beforehand. They do need to sign the nomination form too and need to read the statements contained in the nomination form regarding their eligibility.

You can download a nomination from [here](#) or pick one up from Sue in the Office.

Vacancy: Church Council Members

The Church Council (formally known as Parochial Church Council) is the legal body of the church. Members of the Church Council are the legal Trustees of a charity. Church of England has produced a short guide to introduce PCC members to their roles and responsibilities as Charity Trustees. Click on the image to read the guide. Hard copies available from the Office by contacting Sue. You usually serve for a period of three years. There are usually around 6-8 meetings per year in the evening. You must be at least 16 years old and on the Electoral Roll. There are up to five vacancies.



TRUSTEESHIP An Introduction for PCC Members

This booklet has been produced for PCC members. As a member of a Parochial Church Council you are also a charity trustee, as all PCCs are charities. This booklet seeks to explain what this means in terms of your responsibilities and duties.



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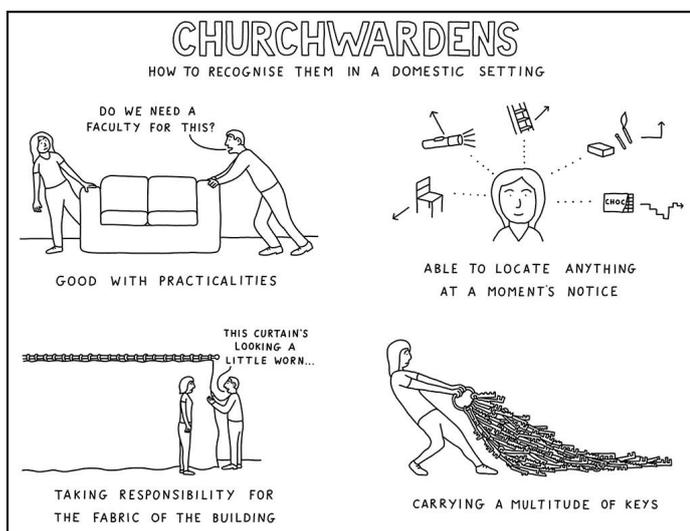
Vacancy: Deanery Synod Members (DSR)

Three members of St Michael's Church will be elected to serve on Deanery Synod for a term of three years from October 2020 to May 2023. Deanery Synod Representatives (DSRs) must be on the Electoral Roll of St Michael's. The current DSRs are Gordon & Vicky Darlington and Hilary Halliwell. Their terms of office end at the APCM in October 2020 although they are free to stand for re-election.

Deanery Synod is a meeting of clergy and lay representatives convened by John Harries, the Rural Dean. The role is to support the development and implementation of the strategic direction (mission) of the deanery and foster teamwork within the deanery and to ensure that the parish's interests are represented.

Vacancy: Safeguarding Advisor

Responsibility for safeguarding rests with the Church Council and the Incumbent in terms of ensuring we have a policy which is actively implemented and reviewed regularly. The day to day oversight of this is delegated to the Parish Safeguarding Advisors. Paul is very happy to speak to anyone with an interest in this important role within our church life. There is training available from the Diocese and support from other PSAs in our team churches as well as our existing other PSA, Chris Bentley. Paul has performed this role extremely diligently and conscientiously and we thank him for his time, efforts and commitment to this role.



International Cricket Result



Vijay's Indian XI, the winning team in our international fixture played at Prestbury CC on 20th September. Congratulations.



Christmas SERVICES & EVENTS

You will have received a communication from Lynne earlier this week seeking volunteers to help plan what our Advent and Christmas offering might look like this year. Given the restrictions we currently have and knowing this may also change as we get into the winter period, we need to think creatively how we can still ensure our witness in the town and how we celebrate the season together as a church family.

If you can spare some time and imagination to be part of this group, please get in touch with Martin by [email](#) or phone 01625 426110 as soon as possible.

OPEN

Monday to
Saturday
11 to 1

for private prayer



Many of you will know Dawn Devine who is a member of our church. During lockdown she and her sewing machine have been extremely busy. In total Dawn has made 512 face masks (some for individuals, some for charities) raising over £1250 for Macmillan (plus some for other charities chosen by recipients). She has also made 43 sets of scrubs for the NHS and she says she is not sure how many ear savers! While she goes off to oil her sewing machine, may we all say thank you for this expression of Jesus' love to many.



Word Up!

TREAT YOUR MASK
LIKE YOUR KNICKERS
OR PANTS.

- 1/ DO NOT TOUCH OR ADJUST (ESPECIALLY IN) PUBLIC
- 2/ MAKE SURE THE FIT IS TIGHT BUT COMFORTABLE
- 3/ DO NOT BORROW OR LEND
- 4/ MAKE SURE IT IS CLEAN
- 5/ IF IT'S DAMP CHANGE IT
- 6/ DON'T GO COMMANDO

Donations to AV Project Don't forget if you'd like to donate towards the AV project as described by Rachel in a recent newsletter, please contact Mike, our Treasurer for more details.

New Town Clerk for Macclesfield



You may recall that in one of our earlier newsletters we informed you that our Town Clerk, Pete Turner, was leaving his post in Macclesfield to take up a new role in Crewe. His replacement has now been announced.

Laura Smith, who lives in Macclesfield, worked as CEO of the Disability Information Bureau in Macclesfield for 18 years working with local people and the communities to improve their lives. She brings with her a vast amount of local knowledge of issues affecting Macclesfield and its residents. "I am thrilled to have been appointed as the Town Clerk of Macclesfield, it is

a wonderful town and place to live and work. Together with the current team, I am very excited to continue the hard work and take our town forward."

Councillor Fiona Wilson added "I am delighted that Laura Smith is joining us as our Town Clerk. Laura has excellent experience and local knowledge of our town and I look forward to working with her, together with the Town Hall team and Councillors, to deliver the Council's ambitious agenda for Macclesfield".

Town Centre Recovery Plan - Residents' Survey



A new Town Centre Recovery Working Group has been established to develop and lead an integrated Covid-19 recovery plan for Macclesfield Town Centre with the purpose of boosting town centre footfall, vitality and viability whilst respecting all safety requirements and guidance to ensure the safety of people within the town centre.

The Working Group comprises a small group of members led by Macclesfield Town Council and Cheshire East Council who are working to gather views, feedback and ideas from wider town centre stakeholders including town centre businesses and Macclesfield residents.

We are conducting a survey to establish a baseline position and to better understand current issues which may be impacting on the ways people are using, or being dissuaded from using, the town centre.

Your feedback will be considered and collated with that of other respondents and analysed by the Working Group with a view to identifying objectives and actions which may be taken to support

the safe recovery of the town centre. A summary/transcript of all feedback received will be published on the Cheshire East Council website and Macclesfield Town Council Website.

If you would like to take the survey, you will find it [here](#) (paper format for our offline church members). Deadline for completion and return online is 11.59pm on 31st October.

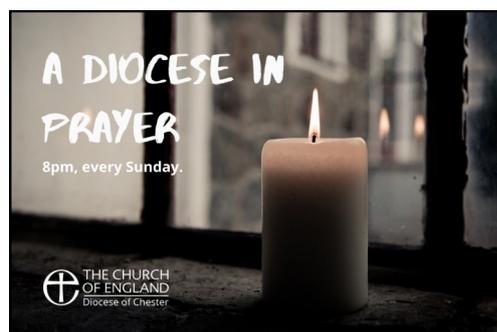
Paper responses should be sent to:
Laura Smith
The Town Clerk of Macclesfield
Macclesfield Town Council
Macclesfield Town Hall
Market Place Macclesfield SK10 1EA

The Clean Team

As part of Macclesfield Town Council's ongoing work aiming to build civic pride, we have been really grateful for the ongoing support of volunteers in the town who take an active role in the areas they live and work. We have volunteer groups and individuals who carry out litter picks, which can be organised and scheduled or just as and when they have the time.

We can provide all the equipment (litter pickers, bags, bag rings (help to keep the bag opening wide)) and can arrange for the bagged litter collected to be picked up and taken away.

If you would like to join a litter pick group, start a litter pick group, or maybe be a litter picking volunteer on your own, get in touch via admin@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk and we'll do whatever we can to help you get involved.





The loss of a pregnancy or baby is a particular bereavement. Excitement turns to sorrow, anticipation to anger, and joy to despair. Thousands of parents experience this bereavement every year, and yet it can be a difficult thing to talk about and come to terms with. It is hard to grieve a reality that didn't come to pass: to lose a future that was full of promise, and yet so quickly came to nothing.

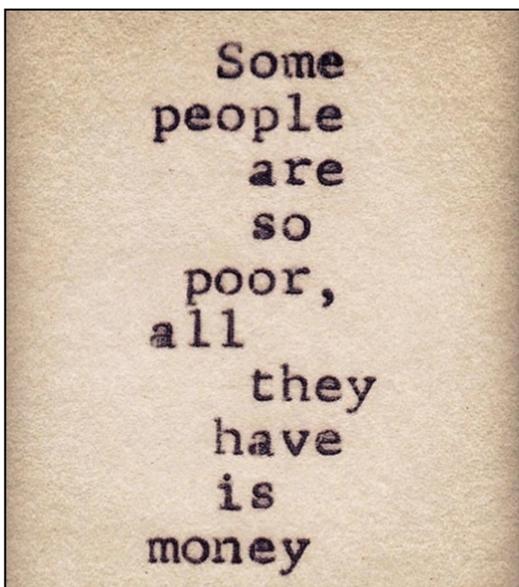
Revd Jenny Bridgman, vicar of Timperley Church, has placed a stone in the churchyard at Christ Church for all who are living with this bereavement.

All are welcome to visit the stone and spend time in the peaceful surroundings of the churchyard. The pain of baby loss, however isolating it may feel, is not a pain to carry alone. Together we come, together we mourn, and together we will find hope that these lives, so precious to us, are held in the arms of God.

The church will also be sharing resources [here](#) for Babyloss Awareness Week. You may like to use these prayers at home, or in the churchyard. Resources will go live there on 9th October. You can watch a short video to find out more:



Some of you will know that St Michael's hosts the Macclesfield Hospital Maternity Unit Baby Loss Service each October. Plans are underway to find some alternative to the usual service in the Chapel. More details hopefully in next week's newsletter.



Everyday Faith in the Workplace



We have all been affected by the pandemic. This has presented various challenges in all kinds of ways. One area of change experienced by many has been how our working lives have been transformed. The regular commute to work, the conversations at the water cooler, the lunchtime knitting groups, seeing a customer smile in appreciation – these social interactions have all but disappeared for many.

There's a certain sense of loss in the air, not only for the people who have suffered from Covid, but also from what we used to have as a society, of being able to be in close proximity to colleagues and friends, to share a packet of biscuits at tea break or give a consoling hug to someone who is feeling a bit down. But there's also strength and resilience among people too, who have been able to adapt and overcome in ways that they themselves might not have thought possible at the start of the year.

Chester Diocese has released its latest podcast sharing the stories of a number of people across the Diocese who have seen their jobs change dramatically as result of the pandemic - and the impact that it has all had on their faith at work during the last few months. Listen to the Everyday faith in the work place during a pandemic podcast free on Spotify [here](#)



One of the stories is shared here...

Simon Wain, Train Conductor on the Trans-Pennine Express

Simon remembers the transition to lockdown, saying "Overnight suddenly going from 250/300 passengers on a train to 6, it was almost post-apocalyptic". Simon recalls just how empty the stations were. There were so few people that Simon recalls how nature started to take over on the platforms and that he even saw two geese take up residence at York station, making a nest in the foyer and laying eggs (see photo above). In terms of how Simon's interaction with passengers altered, literally overnight he says, "There was very little interaction between me and anybody else. The only person I would really talk to at any time was the driver. So it was very strange." Not being able to interact with people as Simon used to will be an experience shared by everyone to a larger or lesser extent. But for those who are used to dealing directly with the public, it has made a big difference to their working lives and the sense of achievement that can be had from seeing a customer smile in appreciation for a job well done. It's been a quiet period in many ways which has given him time to think about gifts from God. "The quiet times have been very beneficial" says Simon.

Prisons Week

11-17 October 2020

LANGLEY HOUSE CHURCH
The Methodist Church
MIDLANDS UNION
The Nehemiah Project
AOC
Bible Society
CFEO
CLEAN SHEET
Free Churches Group
Jehovah's Witnesses
Prison Fellowship
spurgeons
The Salvation Army
The Prisoners' Fellowship

UNITED IN LOCKDOWN

A PRISONS WEEK FILM

SO LET US PRAY
SO LET US ACT
SO LET US DECLARE: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

11TH – 17TH OCTOBER 2020
WWW.PRISONSWEEK.ORG
@PRISONSWEEK #PRISONSWEEK

PRISONSWEEK
A WEEK OF PRAYER

Watch the short film by clicking on the image or click [here](#) and see it from the Prisons Week website

At St Michael's we have been involved with ministry in prisons for a number of years; first in supporting Lynne Spedding while she was volunteering as a prison chaplain at Strangways, and latterly through the involvement of Lynne and Anne Kite in the Chester Diocese Criminal Justice Group, supporting prison chaplains in the two prisons situated in our diocese (Thorn Cross and Styal women's prison). We have developed close ties with one of the chaplains at Styal, Yvonne Yates, and she is very appreciative of all the support we give, practically and prayerfully.

This year Prison Sunday is on 11th October, and Prisons Week runs for the following seven days – when we are called to pray for all those in prisons. You can download a prayer sheet and other resources [here](#). Here is the

prayer for Prisons Week:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen

Prison Sunday Service at St Mike's

We are delighted that our former Rector, Graham Turner, will be speaking to us on Prison Sunday to share some of his experiences of being a prison chaplain. At the moment he

and Rosie are hoping to be with us in person in St Michael's at the 10.00 service; and afterwards we will extend the service for those who wish to stay for a time of questions, discussion and chat – you might like to bring a flask and perhaps something to eat to sustain you! And don't forget your face-covering.

However, if the lockdown regulations on Merseyside change, Graham and Rosie may not be able to come; in which case his input will be prerecorded. In either case, it should be a fascinating and challenging opportunity to hear about prison life and the prisoners themselves – often a forgotten and neglected part of our society.

David Mayers