



Open Door



@stmikesmacclesfield



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Your Faith Journey

When it comes to having faith in God, everyone's journey is different because everyone's circumstances and personalities are unique. There may be a general pattern but ultimately your faith journey is different from mine. The important thing is to **experience** a journey of faith with all its complications, ups and downs, disappointments and exaltations.



After the terrible circumstances of the death of Jesus and the devastating disappointments that the followers of Jesus were experiencing came a period of wonder and assurance.

Many people will know of the resurrection stories and the claims that Jesus was risen from the dead – the stone that was rolled away and the angel that gave the message to the women – 'He is not here. He has been raised.' The women run to tell the disciples what they have seen. But that is not the end of the story. The various characters in the story had their own faith journey to tell. In Matthew's gospel the women meet Jesus and then go and tell the disciples Mary believed by meeting Jesus in the garden (she thought he was the gardener). John believed just by seeing the empty tomb. Thomas believed when he put his hands into the wounds of Jesus.

In Luke's gospel the key moment came on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24.13-35. Two of Jesus' followers had left Jerusalem and were discussing the events of the last few days. They were joined by another who walked with them on the road. This other person explained to them the meaning of all that had happened. It wasn't until much later when they had arrived and were eating a meal that they recognised this stranger as the risen Jesus. They were so excited that they ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell their friends. This was the beginning of their journey of faith.

There came a point for each of the followers of Jesus where they stepped out and began their journey of faith. Until that point they had been observers of the works of Jesus, but then they moved from observation to personal belief. Their lives were changed from that moment on. The journey to that point was different for all of them. It is a journey that may take some time.

A favourite phrase of mine is 'We are all just walking each other home'. As a dented saint I would love to share this journey with you so that we can help each other along the way.

If you are willing to share your journey of faith with others please talk to me or contact me through the church office. Let's encourage each other and walk with each other along the road.



Thanks for reading.

Tricia Atherton



Ref: 'Journey to the Empty Tomb' by Paula Gooder (2014)

Church Flowers



Our thanks to Jo Durbin for the colourful flowers on the Chancel Table, given in loving memory of her beloved Eric.

Music@Mike's

Our summer season begins on Thursday 11th April, 1.15pm in St Michael's with a welcome return by two of the Cheshire Chamber Collective: Julian Davis (piano) and Nicola Bright (violin). They will be playing works by Bach, Bartok and Vaughan Williams. Entry is free; donations towards the East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's Church are welcome.



Cre8 Plant Sale : Plants Needed



Cre8 will be holding a Plant Sale at St Barnabas' church, **27th April 10am - 2pm**. They would be very grateful for any contributions you can offer: indoor or outdoor plants; cuttings, seedlings or divisions - all very welcome.

Tea and coffee will be served. Do join us if you can.

(I am happy to pick up any contributions)

Thank you in advance.



Jenny Wild 07775 579968 / 01625 420352

Grave Talk



There will be another 3-session series of discussions on bereavement, grief and mortality ('Grave Talk') in May/June. If you would like to come along, **please sign the list at the back of church or email lynne.norbron@gmail.com or phone 07881 423687.**

When

7.00pm Sunday 5th May, Sunday 19th May, Sunday 2nd June

Where

56 Fence Avenue, Macclesfield, SK10 1LT (the home of Lynne and Paul)

We will use discussion questions, poetry and Bible readings as the basis for our meetings.

Please note that this isn't a 'counselling group', although it can be helpful to share our experiences about loss and grief in a 'safe' environment. Mainly it aims to talk openly and honestly about one of society's taboos: death/mortality,

Lynne Spedding

Eco-tip

No Mow May (and *Let it Bloom June*). Give your lawnmowers a month (or more) off and see what germinates. Plants that are lying dormant will have a chance to grow, bloom, and make some pollinators happy!



Colin Edwards

For those who remember him, we are sorry to announce the sad news that Colin Edwards died last Wednesday in hospital.



Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Join us for *Worship*



Sunday 7th April 2024 Second Sunday of Easter

10:00am: Holy Communion

Leader & Speaker: Rev'd Martin Stephens
Theme: Cleopas on the Road to Emmaus

Please use the link below to stream this
(and previous Services) on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield>

Start the Week

Every Monday from 7.30am in church

Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stmikesmacclesfield>

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel
lasting 30-40 minutes.

Next taking place on 17th April

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30am (35-40 mins)

Our midweek services follow the order from
the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) and
alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

11th April: Holy Communion
18th April: Morning Prayer

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer –
Morning and Evening groups

Please contact Eve & David Budgett (431606)
or David Mayers (420716) for more information



Contemplative Prayer

Every **Friday at 9:20am in the Savage Chapel**, lasting half an
hour. An opportunity for quiet prayer followed by a short chat.

Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting; [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

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

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476 **Passcode: compline**



Sponsor the Scarf

Please use the link below to
donate towards our "Let's Knit
a Scarf to Keep the Church
Warm" project.

[Click here](#)

The scarf itself will (obviously)
not keep the church warm, but
money donated will go towards
our goal of achieving the CoE's target to be carbon-neutral by
2030. Think 'more efficient boiler' and, longer term, 'solar
panels' -and please give generously!



How to contact the office...



Phone – Landline: 01625 421 984

Email – clergy@maccteam.org.uk

for rota changes, life events

- office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to contact Elaine for room bookings and building matters
- stmikesnotices@gmail.com for newsletter items
- maccteamprinting@gmail.com for all printing
- safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to contact Katie Wilcock, Parish Safeguarding Officer

In person – The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place,
Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

Please note

There will be someone in the office every morning
9.30am– 12.00

Elaine's office hours are usually **Monday,**
Wednesday, and Thursday 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.

Temporary Office Arrangements

While we are trying to find someone to be our new Clergy PA/
Administrator, the office staff will be even more stretched
than usual, so please limit interruptions and the number of
small tasks you might have asked them to do.

Judith Whittingham will be in the office on Tuesday and
Friday mornings, so there will be some office cover every
day. Judith will deal with urgent email, and arrangements for
funerals and weddings.



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a limited group of people who will pray for you)*

