



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



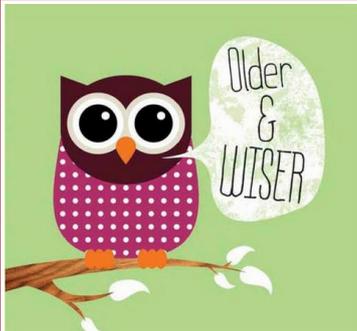
@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Getting old?

Do you feel like you are getting old? Have you had a significant birthday just recently? I have. In the past, going through certain milestones in the ageing process hasn't really affected me much. But this one seems to have loomed a little larger than usual.

There are so many new things happening that I don't understand – new technologies that I am trying desperately to keep up with so that I can make use of them. I was encouraged to know that even the middle-aged generation in my family are struggling with the pace of change. They really want things to slow down so that they have more time to breathe. Work life can be very stressful. There are so many issues in the world that need to be tackled – racism, climate threat, injustice and inequity in the financial systems of the world – I could go on. You know what I mean. Sometimes it gets quite overwhelming and I wonder what on earth I can do about

all these things and what can I contribute? I am no longer in paid work or in a position of power and influence so what can I contribute – at my age.

I tell you what you can contribute – you can share your understanding of life – you can share your wisdom that has built up quietly over the years of living that you have experienced, however long or short that is. Your life journey is a lesson in itself. The way you have approached life, the mistakes you have made (I speak knowingly here), your success, failures, joys and sorrows. You may not recognise it, but you have accumulated such wisdom.

Proverbs 3. 13-14

13. Joyful is the person who finds wisdom,
the one who gains understanding.
14 For wisdom is more profitable than silver,
and her wages are better than gold.

I take comfort and encouragement from the Wisdom literature in the Bible – Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job

Proverbs 3. 5

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

There are two books that we can hold onto – one in each hand. The first, as you would expect me to say is the Bible which is the word of God. The second is the Book of Life – the experiences that we have encountered on our way are all part of our pilgrimage. To live a balanced life, we need to hold both books in our hands and allow God to teach us how they fit together. The pilgrimage that is our life is a real, living and growing thing. The trick is to know how-to live-in harmony with our faith and with our lived experience. Use the word of God as your guide and reflect on the life that God has given you. Put them together and learn with other like-minded people. Join a small group where you can feel safe to say what is in your mind, truthfully.

If you would like to chat over a cup of tea please contact the church office and ask to be connected to me, Tricia Atherton. Make a start on your new journey today.

Tricia



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

To ponder...

"We turn not older with years, but newer every day."
Emily Dickinson

"Beware the barrenness of the busy life." *Socrates*

6th June 2021: First Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Morning Worship

Leader: Paul Simms

Speaker: Revd Martin Stephens

Bible Reading: Mark 3:20-35

BARNABY BRIGHT!
17-27 June 2021, Macclesfield

Don't miss these great events!
See overleaf for full event listings.

Presence **Liz West**
A new large-scale site-specific commission by British contemporary artist Liz West in grade II* listed Christ Church, Bridge Street.

Our Future is Ancient **Simon Buckley**
Inspired by Macclesfield Forest, *Our Future is Ancient* forms three parts; a performance of words and live music; an exhibition of film and images and a walking tour of the ginnels in Macclesfield to bring the forest into the town.

Macc Assemble **IDST!**
This year's Barnaby Parade will be virtual, taking the form of a showreel produced by the people of Macclesfield with arts collective IDST! & screening in St Michaels and All Angels Church, Market Place.

Midsummer Night's Queen **MASH**
A drag cabaret show, inspired by William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, hosted by Mash Guru with participants giving Ru Paul a run for his money in their stilettos.
In collaboration with MaccPride, Bespoke and Zebra.

YOUR 20 SECONDS TO SHINE!

barnabyfestival.org.uk #BarnabyBright21

Barnaby Bright!

The Barnaby Festival 17th-27th June

There should have been a Barnaby Festival last year but obviously that didn't happen. But this year there will be a Festival albeit somewhat reduced in scale. We at St Michael's will be playing a full part in terms of hosting events and offering hospitality and welcome.

There will be four main events. 'Presence' is a large walk-through installation artwork in Christ Church by British contemporary artist Liz West, running throughout the Festival from 17th to 27th. A 'Midsummer Night's Queen' is a drag cabaret show inspired by the Shakespeare play, on Saturday 26th from 8pm until midnight at Mash Guru in Back Wallgate. There will also be a poetry evening in Mash Guru on Tuesday 22nd from 8pm.

One of the main events of the Festival is 'Our Future Is Ancient' inspired by Macclesfield Forest and devised by artist Simon Buckley. This is in three parts; a performance of music, prose, poetry, images and film in St Michael's on Saturday 19th at 8pm, a short film in the Savage Tower from Saturday 19th to Wednesday 23rd 11am to 3pm, and an evening walking tour of the ginnels and alleyways of the town led by the artist on 20th and 21st at 9:30pm starting from RedWillow.

There will be no actual parade this year but there will be a virtual parade compiled as a collage of video clips made by local people under the banner of 'Macc Assemble' and organised by Neil Puttick. The completed Showreel Parade video will be shown in our Welcome Area on the two Saturdays of the Festival from midday until 4pm.

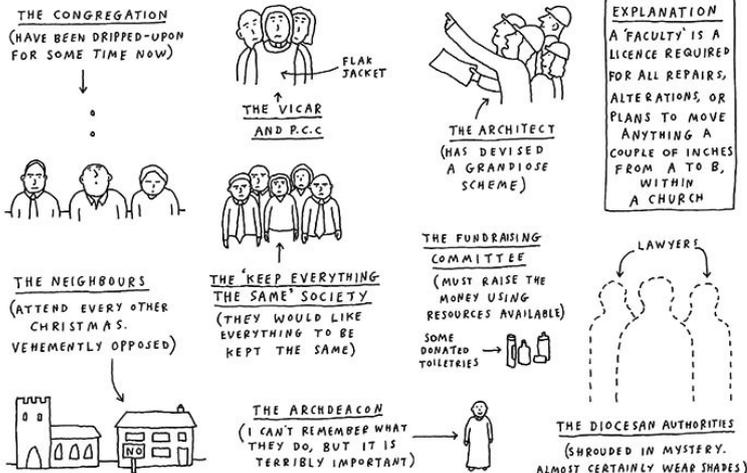
Finally, there will be a Visual Arts & Crafts Fair in the churchyard on Saturday 19th 10am to 4pm.

For more details of these events see the Barnaby website at <https://barnabyfestival.org.uk/> where you can also find out how to get involved and sign up as a Barnaby volunteer.

We will be needing St Michael stewards in church over the Festival .. more details to follow but if you would like to help please contact Paul Simms (paul@lowerbeechfarm.co.uk, 07879446906, 01625 422655).

APPLYING FOR A FACULTY

THE PEOPLE INVOLVED



When did you last share a meal?

As restaurants start to reopen and we're able to share food with friends once again, we wanted to draw your attention to an exciting event to celebrate the joy of sharing a meal.



[Simply Eat online](#) is a free event hosted by the Evangelical Alliance's South Asian Forum and Hope 15:13, to help you learn how to make the most of opportunities to share faith over food.

The Zoom event at 7pm on Thursday, 24 June will explore the biblical context for using food as a way to share the gospel, as well as hearing stories from people coming to faith through Christians sharing food. Join us for a cooking demo and to be inspired by people sharing food and faith for the growth of God's kingdom.

Tickets are free, or £10 if you would like to have a copy of the Simply Eat book posted to you (a coffee table book designed to inspire Christians to share Jesus around food).

FIND OUT MORE BY CLICKING [HERE](#) AND SIGN UP TODAY



Swifts around the belfry!

After the news about the fitting of lures in the nesting boxes, there is now even more exciting news about the swifts; we have had several reports of swifts flying close to the church. So it's all looking very positive, and there's every chance we could get some activity in the nesting boxes this year.



Cricket news

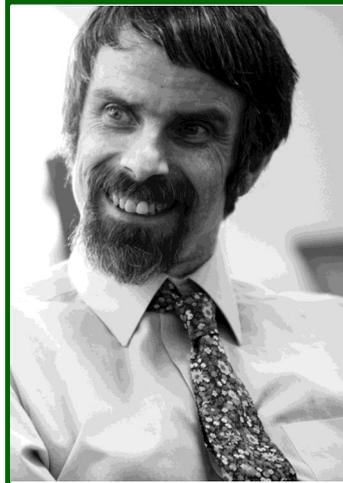
As promised, a report on our game last week against Stockport Teachers – I'm glad to say that we performed much better than at our first game the previous Saturday (but it couldn't have been much worse!).

Batting first, we scored a very respectable 93 for 4 wickets in our 20 overs, with significant contributions all down the order headed by Mike Heathcote 27 (retired), Pete Marshall 25 (retired) and Andy Durrant 18.

Respectable it might have been, but it wasn't good enough to trouble a strong Teachers' batting line-up who reached 94 for the loss of 2 wickets in the 14th over. However, there was much to admire in our enthusiastic fielding and bowling, and promising debuts from James Radmall and Andy Mannion.

All this has been a useful warm-up for our next game on Tuesday 8th June, 6.30pm at Kerridge CC on Clarke Lane. It's our much anticipated local derby against Tytherington Family Worship – spectators welcome!

More info available from David Mayers 01625 420716



Music@Mike's

The next concert in our summer programme is a recital from the well known and promising local pianist Robert Marshall.

Date: Friday 11th June
Time: 1.15pm
Venue: St Michael's

Robert is an enthusiastic amateur pianist keen on exploring some of the less travelled bits of the piano repertory.

His programme will include works by Federico Mompou, Igor Stravinsky, Scriabin, Sergei Rachmaninov, Vasily Solovyov-Sedoy and Karen Tanaka.

Free entry, donations welcomed to East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's

THE ONLINE MEETING

APPEARANCE



REALITY



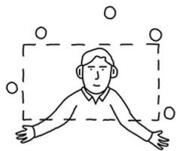
FOLLOWING
TWITTER AND/OR
THE FOOTBALL



HOUSEHOLD
CHORES



TRAINING
ANIMALS



CIRCUS SKILLS
(BASIC)

MEDALS AND TROPHIES

THAT YOU'VE DESERVED THIS YEAR



Church of England Update on Singing in Churches

The Church of England values our precious choral tradition which is at the heart of our Christian worship and the cultural heritage of the nation, and which offers a first class musical education to thousands of children and young people.

Discussing the Government's four-stage plan, The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said: "We understand the frustration that many feel at the limitations in current Government guidance at this stage and share the longing for amateur choirs and indeed congregations to be able to sing without restrictions."

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have worked with the Government to try to ensure that guidance for churches and places of worship was proportionate, and informed by a detailed understanding of our environments and practices. All along, we have encouraged the Government to be alert to the consequences of our choirs' continued silence as well as the loss of congregational singing.

We are reminding the Government of the importance we place on singing to lift our prayers to God, and look ahead to step four and the enabling of the singing of choirs and congregations to fill our churches and cathedrals once more."



Monday Home Group Forthcoming Study: The Creeds

Our next study, starting on 7th June for 6 weeks will focus on the Creed, our statement of belief. The studies are based on the Pilgrim course produced by the Church of England.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | 7 th June | What are the Creeds? |
| 2 | 14 th June | God as Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit |
| 3 | 21 st June | Fully God and fully human |
| 4 | 28 th June | Crucified, risen and ascended |
| 5 | 5 th July | I believe in the Holy Spirit |
| 6 | 12 th July | One, holy, catholic and apostolic church |

Following this we will be looking at some of Proverbs.

If you wish to join in with the studies please use the link for the home group on the back page of the Newsletter. Please email Martin Stephens if you wish to be added to the emails which will be going out to the group.



Four Worms in Church



A Minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

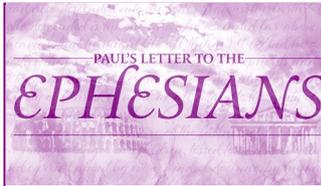
The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.
The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.
The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.
The fourth worm was put into a container of good, clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol ... Dead.
The second worm in cigarette smoke ... Dead.
The third worm in chocolate syrup ... Dead.
The fourth worm in good, clean soil ... Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back and quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke, and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"



Monday Home Group Review of the Study of Ephesians

Ephesians – a wonderful letter written by Paul to believers which has a lot to say to us today. Much of this revolves around the church; that is the people (ourselves) who are the church rather than the building. This has not been an easy or wholly comfortable study.

It starts with our relationship with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the gift of grace and faith. On hearing the gospel and believing we receive the Holy Spirit. It is by God's gift of grace and faith that we are saved, not by good works. They (the good works) are a response to our loving relationship with God.

Throughout this letter Paul encourages us in our relationship with God through prayer and with each other. We are called to work together as "one body". Sometimes that is difficult as we are all different and sometimes there are differences of opinion. Paul does not mince his words. We are to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (5:21). This does not mean to be a doormat but to love and care for other people, considering their needs and interests before or at least equal to our own. Paul exhorts us to live in faith with the Spirit and to put on the armour of God and defend ourselves from evil.

Here are just a few questions we wrestled with – how would you have answered some of these? As Christians we each have a responsibility for ourselves and each other. How do we respond to God's love and gifts?

Do we have time with God in both prayer and bible reading to enable our relationship and faith to grow?

Do we live lives of thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received? Praise and thanksgiving should be more prominent in our prayers and is often neglected in relation to intercessions and petition.

Do we live lives of prayer? What are the different types of prayer? Are we a once a day/week/when we remember pray-er or do we pray throughout the day, every day, in all that we do and in response to what is happening around us?

Do we live as children of light, imitating Christ? We have examined ourselves in light of what is listed as not desirable in someone of faith.

Are we united as a church with Christ as a head, each fulfilling our place as part of the body? What talents do we have that we are not using to God's glory?

We have challenged ourselves to speak with someone new or with whom we don't usually speak.

We have looked at things we don't like e.g. styles of worship or worship songs/hymns and asked what prejudices we hold, some of which may hold others back.

What is our attitude to ourselves and others? Do we love ourselves and each other as God loves us? How do we behave in our relationship with others, whoever they may be?

Are we wearing the armour of God and standing firm in the fight against the devil's schemes?

What passages of scripture can we use in our prayers for ourselves, each other and as defence?

Do we live with and in the Holy Spirit? Have we fully committed ourselves or are we holding part of us back?

We are now in the Trinity season, a time of learning and growth in faith. Please consider joining a home group. The Monday group will be looking at the Creeds, our statement of belief, starting on 7th June 2021. We will follow this with a look at some of the Proverbs.

Paul asks us to pray for each other (6:18) that "God.....may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" (1:17)

Join us for
Sunday Worship

St Michael's Worship 6th June 2021

First 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: Paul Simms

Talk: Revd Martin Stephens

Reading: Mark 3:20-35



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](#)

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

Compline/Night Prayer

Every night 13th-27th May at 8.30pm (Ascension - Pentecost) and every Friday thereafter

Topic: Night Prayer

Time: 8.30pm every Friday (join from 8.25pm)

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



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.

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.

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 [→](#)

