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Open Door

## "Home Thoughts from Abroad" (well, not quite "abroad")

Catherine and I have been fortunate enough to have a few days away recently.

First of all 3 days in York, appreciating the beauty and history of that city, exploring the 'snickleways' (snickets, ginnels and alleyways) as well as enjoying some superb meals. I'm amazed at how many church buildings York has. According to a local historian, in the middle ages there were over 45 churches within the city walls! That's an area of less than half a square mile! Some of them have now gone, and others are no longer used, but it's not as if York doesn't have a significant church such as a cathedral!

I thought about Macclesfield's Christchurch as we walked through the churchyard of Holy Trinity, Goodramgate, and I'm grateful for the Churches' Conservation Trust which administers them both. And I thought about St Michael's as we stood outside York Minster.

York Minster and St Michael's, Macclesfield .. really? Yes, really!

At the same time as St Michael's Church was opening its doors onto the Market Place, there was an impressive display of synchrony as the doors of York Minster opened on the first stroke of eleven and three stewards came out to welcome people into the building. What is it that draws people to visit holy places?

We then spent a week around Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northumbria. Once more I thought about 'home' - this time as we saw the causeway to Holy Island. I pondered where it was that Hilary Halliwell fell over in the mud in 2017, and I wondered how cold the water was .. as we drove across to Lindisfarne in the comfort of our car!

So different to York, yet this remote, fairly desolate, tidal island was again heaving with visitors. A place of tourism and pilgrimage, Lindisfarne is indeed a Holy Island. What is it that draws people to visit holy places?

Returning to work after a welcome break, I'm excited as we continue to make progress from our 'Salt and Light Vision Day'. Three small groups will propose 2 or

It's my second week in and you'll see I'm getting more ambitious (and sillier) —but, mercifully for us all, Sue is back next week. Lynne (temp. Ed.)

3 sentences of ambition for our themes of: Encountering God; Exploring & Nurturing Christian Faith; Sustainability (environmental impact).

Thinking of how we'd like St Michael's to be in 5 years' time, may we each hold in mind and pray for St Michael's to develop as a place of holy encounter.

Two prayers which have spoken to me this past week are:

Everlasting God,  
you sent the gentle bishop Aidan  
to proclaim the gospel in this land:  
grant us to live as he taught  
in simplicity, humility and love for the poor;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

and

Creator God,  
who formed us from the dust,  
breathe in me again.  
Put a new song in my heart  
and grant me a new imagination  
to perceive fresh possibilities in Your world today.  
Amen.

With every blessing,

Mark

Beatitudes for a global pandemic.

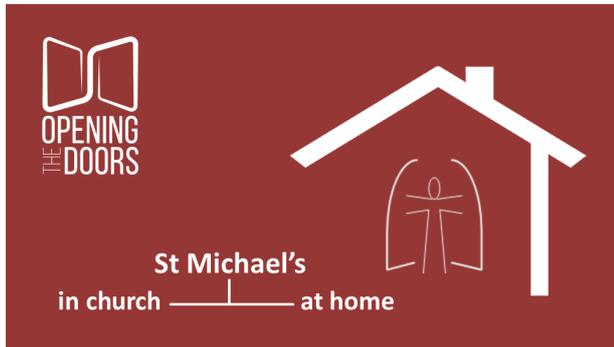


And you have no idea how long it's taken me to work out how to get this link to work! (ed.)

In case you are wondering, this space is reserved for the address label for those who are unable to receive this newsletter electronically!

(Just thought you'd like to know (ed.))

St Michael's Merged Worship 6th Sept 2020  
at 10.00am Join in person in church or by  
clicking on the image below from 9.45am



Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625  
Service Leader: Lynne Spedding  
Preaching: David Mayers  
Reading:  
You will have the opportunity to talk to a smaller group in  
a break out room at the end of the service.

**Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?**

Watch the recording at a time to suit you after Sunday  
lunchtime [here](#)

When you see the invitation in a blue box on your screen,  
please just follow the instruction on the screen and click  
to join, or end the meeting if you need to go at this point.

**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:  
[Click here for more info](#)

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources: click [here](#)

**NEW Summer Club for families:**

Parents Notes and Resources for [6th September](#)

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**Wednesday Morning**

**Discussion**

**11.00am to 12 noon**



Coffee & Chat

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 982 3541 9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin



**Men's Meet-up Meeting:**

When? 8pm for 75 minutes  
on alternate Wednesday  
evenings



Dates: 2nd & 16th Sept

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.*

**Contemplative Prayer**

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

I've done my best with these links but I'm not really  
sure what to link them to! Good luck! (ed.)

**Dates**  
for your Diary

## Thursday Evening Homegroup

The Thursday evening home group meets via Zoom at 7.30pm.

We have now 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.

For details, including the Zoom link, please contact David Mayers

by email: [davidjmayers@btinternet.com](mailto:davidjmayers@btinternet.com)

by phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659



## Who's this smart little schoolgirl?

(and how did she get to be this grown up?)



A happy smile from Sarah Wilcock as she prepares for her first day of Pre-School.



### Age UK Scams Awareness Update

Please read the document sent out with this newsletter: an important alert regarding scams which are being carried out on vulnerable people



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



REJOICE  
IN HOPE,  
BE PATIENT  
IN TRIBULATION,  
BE CONSTANT  
IN PRAYER.

ROMANS 12:12



# Thank-you, bell-ringers!

Have you noticed that the bell-ringers are back? Maybe you have, but wondered why it sounds different from before lockdown. Owing to social distancing requirements we cannot accommodate enough ringers to ring all, or even half of our wonderful 12 bells. Although we are fortunate in many ways to have 12 bells, they are somewhat 'crammed in' – and many of the ropes fall very close together. The current requirement to be 2m apart has led us to choose bells 2, 5, 7 and 9 (which is a major chord in G for those interested!).



We are also only permitted to ring for 15 minutes – this includes ringing the bells 'up' at the start and 'down' at the end, so very little actual ringing. However, given that we are also required to ring in our face coverings – and have the windows out for ventilation – maybe 15 minutes is actually enough! Hope you enjoy it anyway, give us a wave through those open windows - and maybe we'll be allowed to ring 'properly' before too long.



*Joint Tower Captains  
Mel Curwen &  
Kevin Rogers  
plus Ellen Brown  
and Ben Curwen*



Children's book-cover for a global pandemic

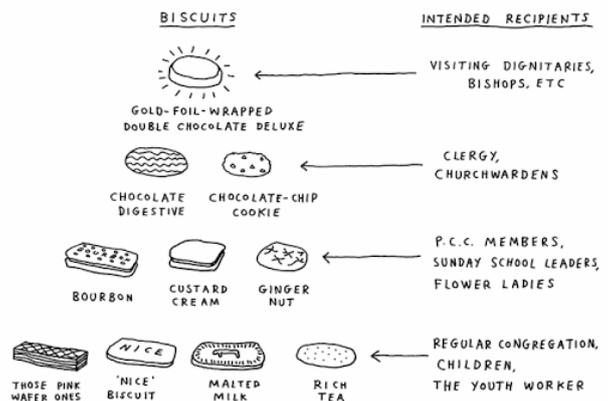


Lord Jesus,  
thank you for all the  
colours of life:  
the red of love,  
blue of kindness,  
pink of friendship,  
purple of laughter,  
orange of generosity,  
green of truthfulness,  
and yellow of faith.

Thank you for all those whose lives are like  
rainbows,  
drawing us closer to you.  
Amen.



## THE HIERARCHY OF BISCUITS



**Parish Scout Group  
Fundraising Events  
26th September 2020**



**Whisky Tasting @ Home**

Enjoy a guided tasting through 8 whiskys from the comfort of your own home. Expert descriptions from Neil Raval delivered over Zoom, chat and share your thoughts with others. A whisky glass is also included. Open to people in SK10/SK11 postcodes if delivery required, or must be able to collect equipment from Station Street hut on 26th September. Secure your ticket by bank transfer of £30 (including optional donation of £5). Once paid, email fundraisers@mpcsg.co.uk to advise if you require delivery or wish to collect on the day. Zoom details will be shared in advance.



**Pie & Peas @ Home**

£5 per pie, supplied ready to warm through along with a portion of mushy peas. Choice of:  
 (a) meat and potato  
 (b) spring vegetable (peas, asparagus, beans in garlic and tarragon)  
 (c) butternut squash, spinach and wild mushroom  
 Collect from Station Street hut on 26th September or delivery available in SK10/SK11 postcodes (please add additional £5 delivery charge per address)  
 Zoom details will be provided so you can connect in and chat while you munch!

**EVENT PAYMENTS**  
 Account Name :  
 Macclesfield Parish Scout and Guide Group.  
 Sort Code : 16-24-32  
 Account Number : 10201513  
 Please add a reference e.g.  
 JbloggsWhisky or JbloggsPIE

**Do you recognise this person?**

(winner of "Best Hanging Basket" category, in the Macclesfield Town Council "Best Front Garden 2020" competition )



It's been an exciting week in the Wilcock family - not only has Sarah started pre-school, but Katie won the trophy below for her hanging basket.

Congratulations, Katie!



**Weddings after Lockdown**



## Facts about September

The name of the month comes from the Latin “septem” - meaning seven - as, in Roman times, the year began in March (named after Mars, the god of war).

The same principle applies to November (ninth month) and December (10th month).

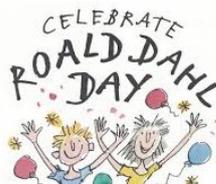
The Anglo Saxons called September *Gerst monath* (barley month) as it was the time they harvested barley to make their favourite drink (barley brew).

And, do you know why nothing whatsoever happened in British history between 3rd and 13th September 1752? Britain used the Julian calendar until that time, less accurate than the Gregorian calendar. So, in 1752 Britain decided to adopt the Gregorian calendar, meaning that immediately the 3rd September became 14th September - and the cry went up, “Give us back our 11 days!” Quite right too.

September is classed as **Bear Necessities** month by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, to raise awareness of and funds for mistreated bears worldwide. It is also **National Organic** month.

### National & International Awareness Days

- 8th International Literacy Day
- 10th World Suicide Prevention Day
- 13th Roald Dahl Day
- 16th International Preservation of the Ozone Layer Day
- 19th (my favourite) International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 21st International Day of Peace & World Alzheimer's Day
- 22nd World Car-free Day
- 17th - 2nd Oct British Food Fortnight
- 26th European Day of Languages
- 29th World Heart Day



But, more to the point, here is a list of the special days celebrated in the Church of England in September. I wonder how many you knew beforehand? I think I could have managed only St Michael and All Angels' Day - 29th! To my shame, I didn't know St Matthew's Day. I should be struck off.

- 1st *Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710*
- 2nd *The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942*
- 3rd Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604
- 4th *Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650*
- 6th *Allen Gardiner, Missionary, Founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851*
- 8th The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (although I note that this can be celebrated in August instead!)
- 9th *Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880*
- 13th John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith, 407
- 14th **Holy Cross Day**
- 15th Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258
- 16th Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c.432
- 16th *Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882*
- 17th Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179
- 19th *Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690*
- 20th John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871
- 21st **Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**
- 25th Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626
- 25th *Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392*
- 26th *Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942*
- 27th Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists), 1660
- 29th **Michael and All Angels**
- 30th *Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420*

Here's our own St Michael mosaic



The typography shows the level of the observance: **BOLD CAPITALS** denote Principal Feasts and Principal Holy Days, **bold** denotes Festivals, roman denotes Lesser Festivals, and *italics* denote Commemorations.

**A Rocha UK  
Trustee, Rev. Dr  
Mike Perry,  
comments on the  
shake-up to  
planning promised  
in the August  
White Paper: 'Planning for the Future'.**



'Build, Build, Build' has been a recent mantra of the UK government. In June Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced fundamental changes to planning in England as part of last month's consultative White Paper 'Planning for the Future'. The changes aim to radically reduce and simplify environmental assessment within the planning process in England. However, as these proposals stand, the result will be that local communities cannot rely on a reactive process of opposing the development of Local Plans. It is essential now for environmental groups to engage with the government as it formulates its new strategy.

Successive governments have considered the planning process to be cumbersome and a brake on the economy. The White Paper, as far as we can tell, aims to be a 'radical reform unlike anything we have seen since the Second World War', (p6). The plans designate all land into one of three categories: 'Growth' (suitable for substantial development), 'Renewal' (suitable for development) and 'Protected' (which will include Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and local wildlife sites).

Preliminary planning permission will be automatically granted for 'Growth' areas and (within limits) for 'Renewal' areas too. This strips out any environmental impact assessment from the initial stage of the planning process. Simplifying environmental checks raises some serious issues. Vulnerable wildlife do not only exist in SSSIs or AONBs, and in particular, critical small habitats may fall through the net of a simplified process and so be destroyed as part of 'Growth' or 'Renewal' areas. Let's hope not, but we need now to lobby hard to ensure that a framework of robust environmental assessment is established because once these proposals are implemented, local conservation groups will need an on-going involvement with local plans.

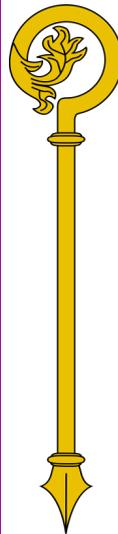
The elephant in the room in regard to the current environmental checks and balances on planning are not the brake on house building that they are portrayed to be. That delay is, in fact, due to the business model of house builders who build large numbers of identical houses and have to trickle them into the market to keep prices high. The government's own 2018 report concluded this (see also Madeleine Cuff's article in the Independent). However given that the current environmental regulations originate from the EU Habitats Directive, they were never going to be popular with this government.

More positively, Planning for the Future does aspire to have better building standards to combat climate change, something that environmental groups have been calling for over many years. However, and disappointingly, no details are given; I foresee the need for hard environmental lobbying and public pressure in this area too.

So, if you are in England, get ready then to raise your views with your local MP to ensure that the government's simplified planning system keeps wildlife and people safe and ensures that any new buildings are climate friendly. Get ready too for proactive work at the local level as your authority formulates their Local Plan. The government wants a national strategy, but conservation is, at its heart, local, fighting to preserve, and increasingly to link up, the patchwork of small interlocking and vital habitats that make up the greater whole.

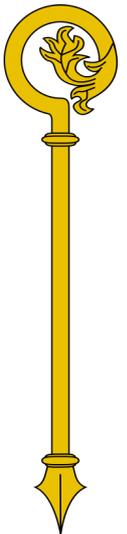


## Crozier Service 20 September



In September Bishop Mark will begin his ministry among us but he will do so without public opportunity to occupy the seat at Chester Cathedral that belongs to his office.

On 20 September he will walk past the Bishop's seat (or *Cathedra*) and receive the Melanesian Crozier at the altar of the Cathedral then pray for the city, county, and diocese.



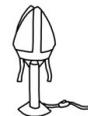
You can join in on YouTube but the gathering will be small. Details for streaming the service will be published very soon.

## MITRES

USES DURING A PANDEMIC



MASK



LAMPshade



POPCORN HOLDER



HANGING BASKET



GLOVE



PIPING BAG



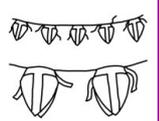
MEASURING DEVICE



OVEN MITT



TEA COSY



BUNTING



WASTE PAPER BASKET



KITE



PUPPET



BELLOWS



RAINBOW

CartoonChurch.com

And here's a cartoon just for Bishop Mark!



## “Jubilee of the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope” 1st September to 4th October 2020

Climate change is a result of greed, inequality and destruction of God’s Earth.

The theme of Jubilee is chosen for this year’s Season of Creation as it reflects those three interlocking themes. Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor.

Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most must make restitution to those who have suffered the most. Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people.

The concept of Jubilee is rooted in the holy wisdom that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities. When one variable is exploited to maximize growth of another, the whole system will eventually suffer. When one part of the Earth community is stressed, every part is affected. In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic demonstrated this reality on a global scale. While the experience of living with the COVID-19 outbreak points back to this need to maintain justice, the lessons that we learn may point us towards the need for a Jubilee and motivate us to restore balance to the very systems that sustain life.

This year we at St Michael’s are once again joining with St Alban’s and other churches in the town to celebrate and pray for God’s creation. This year of course it will be different; we can participate physically and virtually. Please use the calendar for inspiration for your prayers and actions. Here are the events organised for the first week of the season; look out for more details to follow.

### Sunday 6th September Climate Sunday Services

All Masses at St Albans Church, Chester Road  
[http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index\\_files/stalbanslivestream.html](http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/stalbanslivestream.html)

**10.00am Climate Sunday Service at St Michael’s**  
Zoom: Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

**12.00 noon Family Cycle Ride**  
Cycle to Nelson Pit for picnic  
Meet at Tesco Car Park SK10 2AB



## New Arrival in the Family

Last week I mentioned my “German” sister, Hilary. She is an unusual person ....

My earliest memories of her (she is six years my senior) mainly relate to her bedroom, which was full of aquariums/aquaria, in which she kept her lizards, chameleons, terrapins and stick-insects.. She is now in her 70s and things are little different. Amongst other pets, she has two tortoises, and this year they mated and the female laid 4 eggs. On my recent trip out to see her I was treated to a look inside the incubator.

Just one baby hatched successfully ....



But see how baby and mummy have now bonded!



Now I have a grandson who wants a tortoise.

And - yes - I needed something to fill up this last page!

Lynne (signing off as guest editor)

Phew.

I WALKED BY A FARM AND READ A  
SIGN THAT SAID, “DUCK, EGGS.”

I THOUGHT, “THAT’S AN  
UNNECESSARY COMMA.”

AND THEN IT HIT ME.

