



A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on Instagram



“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

*Colossians 3:12*

So .. have you had the jab?

With over 21 million people in this country having received at least one dose of a vaccine, and the early evidence being very encouraging that it is having an impact on infection rates, it's not surprising how much more buoyant people are feeling .. and the longer hours of daylight and (slightly) warmer days are helping too, aren't they?

But let's not get carried away with euphoria.

It's good to know that the situation for the A&E consultant (see last week's newsletter) is improving, but people are still falling ill. Our daughter Nicole was in tears this week because someone she knew died of Covid aged 31. And the niece of a former colleague of mine is in hospital – her auto-immune condition caused a serious reaction to the vaccination. And then there's the possibility of Reverse Culture Shock.

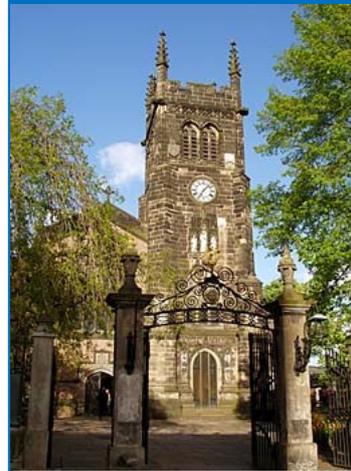
'Reverse Culture Shock' is what often happens when people return home after an extended period abroad. It's the emotional and psychological distress experienced when missionaries return home after a long period of time in another country.

Even as we look forward to those things we've missed so much – hugs, and time, drinks & meals with others – anyone could have feelings of uneasiness and alienation. I wonder how many of us may experience these as we emerge from lockdown?

St Michael's is open for private prayer from next Monday. This may be a gentle way back into the building for some. Even when services resume, it may be some time before you feel able to be amidst a crowd of people.

That phrase “It's okay not to be okay” – be kind to yourself, and to other people too. Having the jab doesn't make everything better.

Mark



## Re-opening the Building

Although we have been permitted in law to hold services in church throughout this current lockdown period, the Church Council took the decision in January to close the building as we did not wish to seem to be encouraging people to leave their home.

However, in view of the Prime Minister's recently published “road-map” for the relaxation of lockdown restrictions, along with the latest encouraging Covid figures, it has been decided that:

The Church Building will re-open for public worship **from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March** (10.00am) – **Palm Sunday**.

There will be services on **Good Friday (2nd April)** – yet to be decided.

On **Easter Sunday** (4th April) we intend to hold a service of Holy Communion

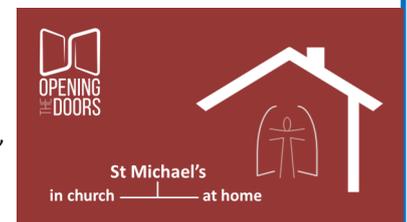
Sunday services should continue thereafter in the building.

Obviously, there will still be some who wish to isolate at home, so our services will be “merged” (Zoom and live), as we have done in the past. We will continue with our well-rehearsed

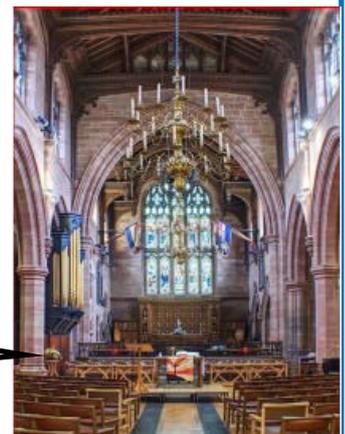
Covid restrictions in the building: face masks to be worn, social distancing within the building, signing in / use of the NHS track and trace QR code, no singing, etc.

In addition to worship, the following activities will also recommence:

- **Start the Week** begins again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- The building will be open for **Private Prayer** 11.00am-1.00pm daily from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- **Contemplative Prayer** will recommence on Fridays (starting Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March) – 9.10-9.40am



Remember what it looks like?!



## Raise a glass to Fairtrade

The pandemic has been tough for many people in this country, but far more so for small-scale farmers in the developing south; and even more so for the South African wine industry – which accounts for 77% of all purchases of Fairtrade wine.



As Fairtrade Fortnight comes to an end, they really need our support right now, having just emerged from a ban on domestic sales and facing a distinctly uncertain future. And Fairtrade wines are getting better, attracting favourable comments from respected wine experts across the board. They were on the “cheap and cheerful” end of the market, but recently both the Co-op and M&S have listed more expensive and better quality products.

However, there are also good quality bargains to be had;

- M&S Daniel’s Drift Merlot 2020 is delicious at £6 – soft, rich, and borderline chocolatey
- Co-op’s Vergelegen Sauvignon Blanc 2020 is classy, with an intense citrus character; and well worth the £10 price
- The co-op also sells an excellent richly flavoured Bosman Adama Red at at £10



## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester

### Lenten Reflections at a time of Climate Crisis

Don't forget to look at the Diocesan Lent programme which consists of 40 brief (daily) reflections and 7 (weekly) challenges. Go to <https://www.chester.anglican.org/Lent> for the full programme.

The brief daily reflections have been written by a variety of people from across the diocese.

#### See below for the Revd Deborah Dalby's reflection for Monday 1st March

Remember - Archdeacon Ian Bishop's encouragement is that, this year, we **take** something up for Lent rather than **give** something up, so there are seven weekly challenges.

#### The challenge for this coming week (3) is

#### Introduce meat-free days

(Week 1: Cut out single-use plastic  
Week 2: Keep it local)



## Chester Diocese' Lenten Journey (see article above)

"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies." *Romans 8:19-23*

#### A reflection from the Revd Deborah Dalby - St. Andrew's Church, Grange: 1st March

Walking alone during the first national lockdown, I stood still for a moment, faced tipped to the sun and closed my eyes. I was struck by something overwhelming – the sound of nature. Not obscured by voices, traffic or airplane noise, with no hum or alerts from technology, I like others heard birdsong like never before. I recognised the scuttle of mammals in the hedgerow and caught the commotion of insects. We were all delighted by worldwide reports of diverse wildlife moving into urban spaces.

A crisis, whose negative impact was singularly felt by humans, reminded us of the impact we have on our planet. For a short while the groan of nature turned to a riot of rejoicing, as we were pushed back into our restricted habitats, the natural world seemed set free!

Jesus is our pivot, allowing us to turn our lives around and be set free from the bad that we think, say, and do. This redemption however is not ours alone but for all of creation. During the pandemic we have come to recognise that our neighbours are also animals and plants. The importance to love all our created neighbours as ourselves couldn't be more clearly illustrated than when we share the disaster of forest and fell fires, floods and draught.

Good news from the pandemic is that we can change behaviour and experience the benefits - allowing the harmony of nature to emerge frees us all. The starting point for change, as always, is to sit back, open our hearts and listen.

#### A prayer

Loving God, help me to love your creation and give me the wisdom to stop and hear what you are saying through the wonder of nature today. Amen

## The History of St Michael's Church (contd)

In previous columns we have covered some of the early days of St Michael's (then known as All Saints') from around 1220 to 1660.

By the middle of the seventeenth century, Macclesfield was unceasingly prosperous and had grown in size to around 4,500 people. Church attendance was compulsory yet St Michael's held only about 600 people. Additional seating was built and, more importantly, first one then a second gallery were added during the century – these have long since disappeared. The *Toleration Act* of 1689 passed by Parliament allowed nonconformists (but not Roman Catholics) to build their own places of worship and the first of these in Macclesfield was the beautiful 1690 building we now think of as the Unitarian Chapel in King Edward Street, originally a Presbyterian chapel.



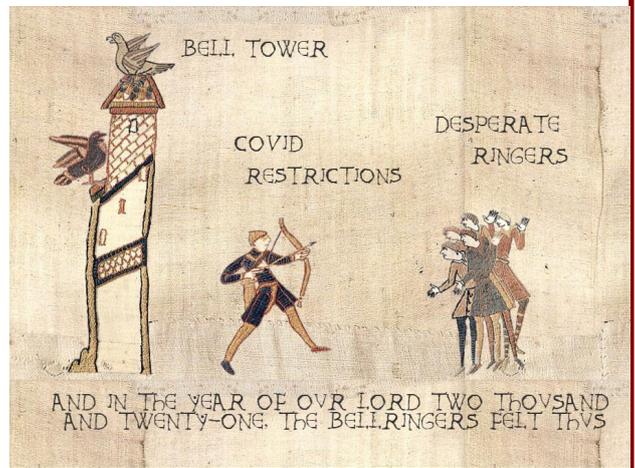
Today's team of bellringers

As now, the building was very expensive to maintain!

Relying largely on income derived from a rate levied on property holders in the town, the wardens spent a great deal on repairs and improvements – such as the church bells. There had been a clock in the church for over a century, but clocks in this period were expensive and unreliable and much money was spent on upkeep.

Again, as in the twenty-first century, leaks in the roof were a constant worry and one report of 1716 refers to repairs being necessary after "shaking with the wind" had caused damage. In fact by the late 1730s it became clear that a major rebuild was necessary – the building was too small, and was in increasingly bad repair.

Bell ringing became popular in England from the mid seventeenth century, partly as a means of calling parishioners to worship but also as a recreational activity in its own right. In the 1680s, St Michael's wardens appointed six men to ring on Sundays, suggesting there were six bells, although no precise information remains on this. In the time before broadcasting, church bells were also rung on occasions of national importance, for instance when the Catholic King James II was replaced by William and Mary of Orange in 1689.



This article is based on material Jane Laughton's book *The Church in the Market Place* (published 2003, ISBN 0-9544044-0-8) Jane generously allowed us to use material from her book before her death in 2017.



### Poem to the Spell Checker on PC

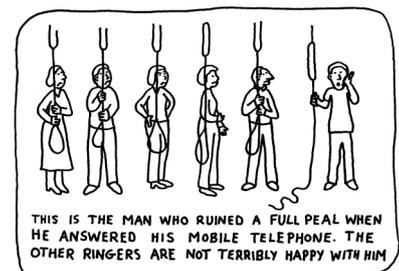
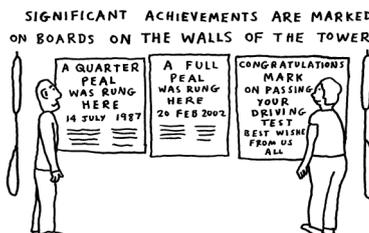
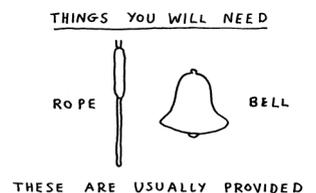
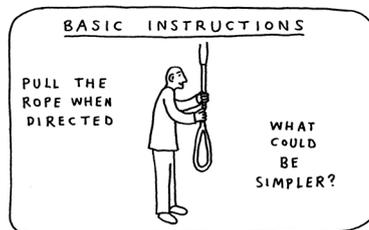
Eye have a great spell checker  
 It came with my pea sea,  
 It plainly marques four my revue  
 Mistakes I cannot sea.  
 Eye strike a quay and type a word  
 And weight for it to say  
 Weather eye am write or wrong  
 It shows me straight a weigh.  
 Whenever a mistake is maid  
 It shows bee four too long  
 And eye can put the error write  
 It's almost never wrong,  
 Eye ran this poem through it and  
 I'm sure you're pleased to no  
 It's letter perfect all the weigh  
 My chequer tolled me sew.

Sauce unknown.

Thanks to Kitey for this submission

## THE BELL-RINGERS

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW RECRUITS



CartoonChurch.com



## St Michael's Chester to Macclesfield Pilgrimage September 2021

**We will be starting from Chester on Wednesday,  
1<sup>st</sup> September, so get this date in your diary!**

You may remember that last September we were planning to walk from Chester to Macclesfield as a pilgrimage to commemorate the 800th year of the first chapel on the St Michael's site, but obviously the pilgrimage had to be postponed.

If we're allowed and if it seems safe, we would like to try again this September, even though now it's 801 years!

The idea is that it won't need to be residential – walkers will travel to the starting point for each day's walk then travel home at the end of the day. Each of the starting/ending points has a train station (or, of course, people can use cars if they can sort out the logistics.) We will also have a car available each day for anybody who doesn't want to walk the whole day.

This approach makes it very flexible - you wouldn't need to do every day if you didn't want to.



*The Dales Way Pilgrims 2019*

The pilgrimage will start on a Wednesday when we will arrive in Chester, probably have a small service at the Cathedral then walk about 14 miles to Delamere.

Thursday will be Delamere to Northwich (13.5 miles),

Friday will be on to Knutsford (10.5m),

Saturday will be to Prestbury (14.5) the

Sunday we just walk from Prestbury to St Michael's (2.5m) in time for the service.

There won't be any charge for this of course (apart from train fares or petrol)

Where possible there will be short reflections in churches as we go along.

If you're interested, please let Paul Spedding know  
([paulspedding@gmail.com](mailto:paulspedding@gmail.com) / Macc 614819)

Paul Simms, Taffy Davies, Paul Spedding



## Osiligi Charity Projects Child Sponsors Needed!

As you know the Osiligi Maasai Warrior Troupe performed in your church. The event was part of one of the 16 UK charity tours we have staged since 2002. The first purpose of the tours is to earn money for the troupe members and their families who, before the tours, had nothing, and secondly, to recruit sponsors for the wonderful new school which the charity has built, educating over 280 boys AND, importantly, girls.

The tours brought about the formation of our charity **Osiligi Charity Projects**.

Covid has brought the exercise of annual tours to a temporary halt, and we shall lose two. This has left our sponsorship campaign short of numbers, and hence we wonder if you would be kind enough to sponsor a child?

The cost would be £20 a month or you can pay yearly. You can choose to nominate a boy or girl. You will receive up-to-date regular reports on your child, as well as drawings, letters and teacher class reports throughout the school year.

You can send letters to them when you want to.

If and when I can return to the school, I will video the children so you can hear them speak to you.

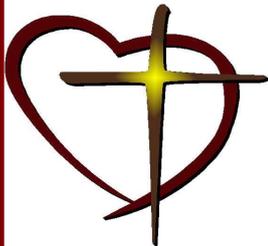
If you are interested and would like to know more information please contact me - Tracey Moore

e mail: [tracey.osiligi@yahoo.com](mailto:tracey.osiligi@yahoo.com)  
mob: 07719811774

For more information please look at the charity website <http://www.osiligi.org>



*Billboard in the States during a very rainy period!*



## Jane Andrews' Funeral

Chris, Jane's son would like to thank all those who have sent cards, letters and flowers on Jane's death.

Jane's funeral will be held on Monday 8th March at 15:45 at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium.

Below are the login details for anyone who wishes to join the service online.

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>

Login / Order ID: 80698

Password: kwjauwbx



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
**Diocese of Chester**

If you wish to read the latest **Diocesan Update** please click [here](#)



### Daily Compline throughout Lent

From 17<sup>th</sup> February (Ash Wednesday) until 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Holy Saturday), a team of volunteers will lead Night Prayer on Zoom from 8.30pm. Do consider joining them if you can. Afterwards many people will quietly leave, though some may wish to stay on for a brief catch-up

with others, but the meeting will close automatically just after 9pm - so definitely no late-night chat!

**Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on this link or copy and paste it into your web-browser**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09>

To join Night Prayer on Zoom:

Topic: Night Prayer

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline

Please join a minute or two before 8.30pm for a prompt start. Your microphone will be muted on arrival; please keep it so until after Night Prayer.

## How to Contact the Office

Please be careful to use the correct email address for the purpose of your message.

- For the **newsletter**: [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)
- For **bookings, building maintenance**: [office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)
- For **service details, rotas, anything else**: [clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk)

These email addresses will be accessed at least once per week, but not every day, so don't expect an instant response.

The office phone will also be accessed at least once each week.



## Digital Traidcraft Stall

Usually there's a Fairtrade stall at St Michael's during Fairtrade Fortnight (see David's article on p. 4 about Fairtrade Fortnight).

**This year you can get Fairtrade items delivered to you - including Easter eggs.**

Here's a link to the new Spring Traidcraft catalogue:

<https://bit.ly/3pu9VOF> Or go to [traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk) for a searchable catalogue.

You can email your orders to [karen.downard@ntlworld.com](mailto:karen.downard@ntlworld.com) and she will order for you and deliver to your doorstep. This will save you the delivery charge. Karen has many items in stock already. Payment can be made through online banking or by debit / credit card using Karen's card machine.

Last week's newsletter also came with a PDF of Karen's full stock and price list.

## March Facts

1. March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war as it was the month in which the military campaigning season got under way after winter.
2. In Old English one name for the month of March was "Hlyda" meaning "loud" possibly because of the roaring March winds.
3. March is the only month with three consecutive consonants in its name in English.
4. An old proverb says that "March comes in a like a lion and goes out like a lamb", which means that winter is ending and spring is beginning.
5. In ancient Rome before Julius Caesar's calendar reform, March was the first month of the year.
6. The expression "mad as a March hare" dates back to 1529. It refers to the wild behaviour of male hares during the mating season in March.
7. The "Ides of March" was a day in the Roman calendar equivalent to [March 15<sup>th</sup>](#). It was considered a deadline for settling debts. It was also the day Julius Caesar was assassinated.



## Key Dates in March (2021) in the Christian Calendar

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | St David's Day (Wales)                                |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | St Piran's Day (Cornwall)                             |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Mothering Sunday                                      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | St Patrick's Day (Ireland)                            |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Joseph of Nazareth                                    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne                       |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Oscar Romero: Archbishop of St Salvador (Martyr 1980) |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Annunciation to Mary                                  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Palm Sunday   |

## Church Flowers

The Munros have a huge camellia in their front garden which for a few weeks each year is the talk of their Close and a tourist attraction for dog-walkers! Sue will send a weekly update so that we can all share the joy as it blooms.



And Tricia Wilson has sent these lovely photographs of her crocus border in full bloom.



## Bollinbrook - our Church School

Please remember the staff, pupils and parents of our church school, Bollinbrook, as it re-opens for all pupils on Monday 8th March.

This has been an extremely difficult year for schools: staff have been teaching live as well as producing online lessons and maintaining contact electronically with pupils at home ; children have had their education interrupted repeatedly, and have been isolated from friends and adrift from their usual routines, and parents have struggled with home-schooling and in many cases, juggling their own work with their children's daily needs.

We pray for a safe and happy resumption of school life.



A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

## The Emerging Church of England

is the name for four strands of work which together will help leaders in every diocese to discern the shape, life and activity of the Church of England in the 2020s. The main aim of the Emerging Church of England is to follow a shared vision - to share what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the Holy Spirit - with simpler national governance structures.

This work began before the coronavirus pandemic but has been intensified and adapted in light of the changing circumstances.

The work is to:

**Review our strategic context:** the Church and the impact of the social, political and economic world around us

**Determine key strategic priorities for the next ten years** through a shared Vision and Strategy

**Deliver simpler governance structures**

**Transform our national operating model for the future** i.e. the practical ways the Church is organised and functions.

The work is overseen by a Coordinating Group, chaired by the Bishop of Manchester and made up of members of the Church Commissioners, the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops. Its job is to recommend proposals to the governing bodies to ensure the necessary changes happen at the right time, as well as ensuring the different areas of work join up well.

Four groups - Recovery, Vision & Strategy, Governance, and Transforming Effectiveness - have been tasked with consulting the wider Church, providing recommendations and guidance, and transparently communicating their progress and findings.

To read more from the CoE website, click [here](#)

## Lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs: Graham Usher

"Courageous decision-making is needed to tackle climate change", says next environment bishop.

"Nobody can deny that climate change awareness has grown significantly over the past years. It is now no longer a niche interest, but everybody's issue", writes The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, following his appointment as Lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs.

To read Bishop Graham's full article, click [here](#) for the relevant page of the CoE website



Join us for  
*Sunday Worship*



**St Michael's Worship 7th March 2021**

**Third Sunday of Lent**  
**ONE service this week at 10am:**  
**from home on Zoom**

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

Service Leader: Martin Bancroft  
Talk: Revd Martin Stephens  
Reading: John 2:13-22



**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 House Group**

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 details as before. 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.

This week we have started the Bible Course.




Email any [prayer requests](#) here

**Compline in Lent**

When? 8.30 pm daily, during Lent

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

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.



SCAN ME

**Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's**

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry 

