



Open Door

How the church can help reboot the world

Covid-19 has changed the way we see the world.

It's forced us to pause and reflect. It's reminded us of the fragility of life and exposed inequalities in society. But it's also brought communities together and given us the chance to reimagine what life could be like.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to be part of rebuilding a society which reflects God's kingdom values.

As Christians, we can play a vital role by living differently and calling for change as we move forward. Christians have often been central at moments of social renewal and justice. And now, we can urge our leaders to prioritise **loving our neighbours near and far, protecting the most vulnerable, and caring for God's creation.**

In the midst of the current coronavirus crisis, many begin to wonder what life might look like afterwards. Might this be a chance to create a new normal? How can we 'build back better' and what is the church's role?

Churches around the world have adapted quickly to serve their communities finding new ways to be a light in the darkness, to love our neighbours and care for the most vulnerable. Although our church buildings may be closed, the role of the church in wider society has never been more important.

As the people of God, we are called to abide in Christ and let his life flow in and through us. As we emerge from this crisis, how do we do this? How can we embody the values of Christ's kingdom and point people to a better way of living, in the midst of a hurt and broken world?

Coronavirus is a serious health crisis, but it is also a serious societal crisis. It has



'LET LIGHT SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS.' 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

tearfund

Photo: Engin Akyurt/unsplash.com

Read the full Tearfund report **THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN BUILDING BACK BETTER** An invitation to discern together 2020 [here](#)

held up a mirror to our society, and revealed brokenness that was often previously ignored. As many are currently saying: 'We're all in the same storm, but we're not all in the same boat.' In the UK, along with risk factors such as age, it is the poorest and ethnic minorities who are most likely to die during this pandemic. Globally, the lockdown has meant cramped living conditions, increasing debt, no access to (even digital) school lessons, and days without food.

Coronavirus has also put our current environmental crisis back in the spotlight. God has created a world where all things are interconnected, and there are consequences when those connections are damaged. It is important to acknowledge all this, and to lament. And yet, hope is beginning to emerge from this crisis. Among the disorientating chaos and anxiety of this lockdown, many are rediscovering the centrality of our connection with God, and with those around us.

People are reaching out to God and to each other. In the UK, community WhatsApp and Facebook groups,

online Alpha courses and daily prayer rhythms have all sprung up as the distractions of modern life are stripped away. For many, this is a moment of spiritual awakening which can often go hand in hand with social renewal.

We are also glimpsing the benefits of living in harmony with God's creation. In China, it's thought that the two-month reduction in air pollution during the lockdown 'saved the lives of 4,000 children under 5 and 73,000 adults over 70 in China'. For the first time in 30 years, the Himalayas are visible from the Punjab, 125 miles away. People are hearing birdsong louder than before, they're breathing cleaner air and realising just how important getting outdoors can be for our well-being. We are beginning to spot the potential of a better life on the other side of this, and both hope and imagination are beginning to rise. Despite the chaos, we know that God's plan is for peace, for 'shalom'. This transcends our modern notion

(Continued on page 3)



St Michael's at Home LIVE 7th June 2020

When? 11.00am for 11.15am

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 945 7891 9719 Password: 151434

Service Leader: **Paul Simms**

Reading: **Matthew 28:16-20**

We meet again for our Sunday worship together on Zoom. You can enter from 11am and the service will start at 11.15am.

On entry you will be muted by Tricia who is hosting the service. Please **DO NOT** unmute yourself. This enables the host to admit everyone more effectively. We will not go into break out rooms until after the service.

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. We will have until 1.30pm before the Zoom ends.

Wednesday Morning Discussion

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 911 712 4669 Password: Vruk116200

Hosted by Tricia & Martin

Save these details for next week



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate Wednesday evenings

Dates: 10th & 24th June

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.

Save these details for next time



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 Meeting ID: 954 2607 8393 followed by #

When prompted, enter #

Listen Course

If you have expressed an interest in volunteering as a listener these are the training sessions:

When? 11th & 18th Jun 2020 7:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 983 1009 5401

Password: 546355



Email any prayer requests here:

office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Roots Family Time Sheet [here](#)

This week's lectionary readings:-

Resources for adults:

www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome7jun

Resources for families:

www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome7jun

Dates
for your Diary

Here are Rosie, Jamie, Ziggy and Buddy. It should have been Buddy's baptism this Sunday (7th). Let us pray for the Savage family and hope we can have Buddy's christening in church very soon.



(Continued from page 1)

of peace to include ideas of wholeness, balance and tranquility: everything in its place, everyone in right relationship. A world reflecting back the love and beauty of God. Creation is groaning in anticipation of this (Romans 8:22). It's what we seek when we pray 'your kingdom come'. It's what we live out when we love God and love our neighbour.

We're already beginning to see three great shifts in our social values emerging, towards ideals much more aligned with the kingdom of God:

1 From 'I, alone' to 'We, together'. Our interconnectedness and our need for one another has never been clearer. We are deeply connected with one another and with the whole of creation.
2 From valuing productivity above all else to valuing life. We've seen those without homes being housed, and communities coming together to make huge sacrifices to save lives, an urgency both to support those who are lonely and isolated, and a willingness among many to give up their time and their resources to support them. These solutions aren't perfect, and some may only be temporary, but they demonstrate a shift to valuing life over productivity.

3 From small tweaks to a new way of being. Many are beginning to realise that we have a chance to reshape culture and society. In a recent YouGov poll, only nine per cent of Britons want life to return to 'normal' once the lockdown is over. The dignity of human life, the centrality of community and the flourishing of all people and all creation, these are values intrinsic to the Christian story. As the people of God, we can speak prophetically to our society, casting a vision for a way forward.

Extracted from Tearfund Report



Eat Less Meat

While out walking through the fields near Monks Heath last week we were amazed at the amount of land now being used for the cultivation of maize. Huge fields, fertilised and kept clean by massive applications of chemical fertiliser, weed-killer and pesticide. And all of this maize will be fed to cattle, which as well as making very expensive protein contribute large amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The biggest difference we as individuals can make to slowing down climate change is to eat less meat. Cutting our meat entirely from our diet can reduce our carbon footprint by a third. So here is an idea for all of us as we enjoy our time in lockdown experimenting with new recipes (at least, that's what we are doing!)

Share a new meat-free recipe If you have tried, and enjoyed, a new meat- or dairy- free dish then can you share it in this newsletter? As you eat with your family let your conversation explore your food consumption rhythms and habits. Is there a change in your diet that you can individually or collectively commit to? Lockdown could be a great time to implement that change and keep each other accountable! And let us know how you get on so we can all benefit from your experience.

Here is the first dish to get us started – Rachel's cashew nut curry. Recipe can be provided on request! Maybe we could produce our own church meat and dairy free recipe book.



Rachel & David Mayer

Experience of Grief During Pandemic



One of the Care for the Family team shares a real account of what it is like to lose a loved one to COVID-19. She shares her experience of grieving honestly and openly with her children during lockdown, and how her family have been processing this journey.

Three weeks ago, my ten-year-old confided in me that the scariest thing about COVID-19 is that none of the adults know what's going on. His words bounced around inside me for days – I realised how unsettling this must feel for our children who are still just about basking in a pre-teen bliss of believing that Mum and Dad are invincible heroes who can fix anything. We took a determined stand against insecurity: extra patience, healthy routines and loads of fun. Perhaps, deep down, I was fighting to remain that invincible hero who can protect my kids from anything scary.

And then the phone call came. We're all together, all the time, aren't we? And so, when we received the sudden, horrific news that a young friend had lost his life to COVID-19, our kids were right there as we crumpled and wailed and wept in painful horror, disbelief, and sorrow.

Honestly, it's not the way I'd choose to share that kind of news with my children. We've experienced bereavement before, and have thought of calm, careful ways in which to break sad news to them. We've agreed in advance what we'll say and how we'll say it, foreseeing every possible reaction. We'd never plan to fall to the floor, clinging desperately to one another, tears and snot running down our faces, crying out "WHY?" in anger and disbelief.

We've journeyed a few weeks on from that point now, and it's been a messy but beautiful time of being real and honest with our kids. There's no escaping one another at the moment, so they've seen it all. Faith is an important part of our family life, but that doesn't mean I have answers to these big, painful questions. Instead, we're learning that it's ok to parent without answers. We're careful to protect our kids from terror and hopelessness, but we're ok with showing them that we're sad and confused and hurting

inside. It's fine to hug and weep and not have anything wise to say. We're on a journey together, and that's the important thing.

Living out everyday life together as family is a healing process. We've walked and talked every day; the children have nurtured seeds into fragile plants, helping them to think about life and death as something that's part of every living thing; they've written cards and drawn pictures for our friends, and found ways to be kind and encouraging to others. Overall, I think they've seen that Mum and Dad haven't got it all together all the time, but life's still good, even when it's really hard. It's a lesson we all have to learn eventually!

Being together 24-7 can make moments like this seem challenging. We're not always in control, and sometimes that is scary. But living life in its fullness – warts and all – in front of our children presents opportunities beyond anything we could have fabricated. I hope that our tears and laughter of the last few weeks will inspire a lifelong understanding that sorrow and pain are not the end of the story – the only response to death is more life.

Below is a list of organisations who are also equipped to support those bereaved.

CRUSE Bereavement Care Free Helpline 0808 808 1677

The Good Grief Trust 0800 2600 400

Samaritans call on 116 123

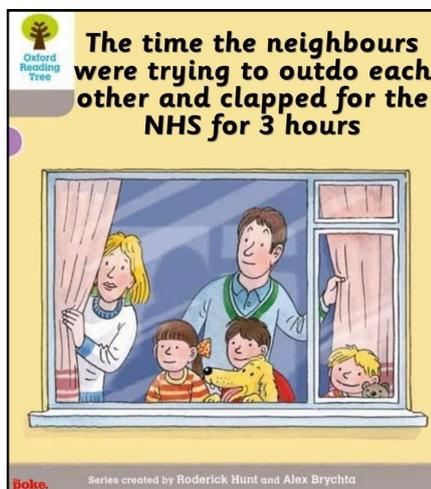
Hannah has also recorded a short video (3 mins around this experience. Watch it [here](#)

*Written by **Hannah Persaud** who is a Networker for the Kitchen Table Project at Care for the Family, a national charity which aims to promote strong family life and help those who face family difficulty: parenting, marriage, bereavement. Their work is motivated by Christian compassion.*

Give it up for: Homeschoolers & Teachers amongst our church community **We Salute You...**

A new range of Biff and Kipper books produced by the Oxford Reading Tree

Chemistry Homework Anyone?



Homeschooling question: If you have your children make you mixed cocktails, does that count as chemistry? Asking for a friend..

Latest Ofsted Report for Local Homeschooling Setting

A Prayer for Parents Homeschooling

School report

Jeffrey Home School
Kitchen Table, Nr. Brighton.

Number on Roll: 2

Inspection dates: April 2020

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Good	2
	This inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Leadership and management		Shocking	3
Behaviour and safety of pupils		Requires Improvement	3
Quality of teaching		Requires Improvement	3
Achievement of pupils		Requires Improvement	3
Early years provision		Not Applicable	-

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

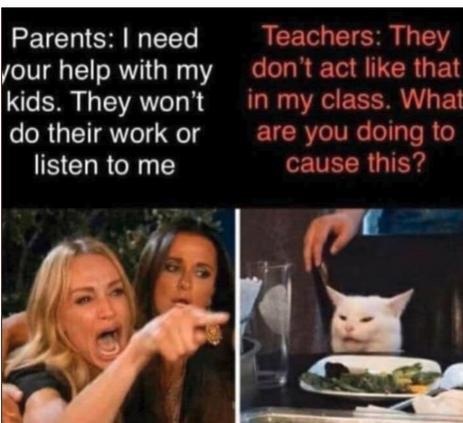
This is an atrocious school.

- School leaders have ensured that the school's overall effectiveness has tanked since the last inspection.
 - Pupils are regularly late to lessons, and often leave the class without permission. Absenteeism is a daily occurrence, despite the school only having two pupils on roll. One child was found watching a Netflix boxset without adult supervision.
- Pupils enjoy learning. They just don't enjoy lessons. Except making a game where they throw a ball into various cardboard boxes. That one seems to have caught on, at least.
 - The school consistently fails to provide lesson objectives, nor does it signal clearly enough in pupils written work that aural feedback has been given. So that's something.
- The headteacher is eminently qualified but is regularly seen wearing nothing but dressing gowns and underpants. This sets a very poor example to the pupils. Also, in the evening, both members of staff are often observed drinking alcohol in front of the pupils.
 - The Key Stage 2 pupil was recently caught playing Fortnite and claimed it was a Geography project. He was excluded for two weeks.

The school development plan lacks rigour. Our team did not feel 'get everyone showered and dressed by lunchtime' was sufficiently aspirational.

- One pupil in Key Stage 4 does not arrive at school until around 1pm, but when inspectors questioned him he could give no clear reason why he was not at school.

"Father God, I am your humble servant. What I am NOT is a maths teacher, God. Lord God, the spirit of Common Core has attacked our household, and right now the only thing we have in common is frustration and no answer to the maths problem..." You will laugh. You might cry. But if you're reeling from the ongoing shift to homeschooling your kids and feeling like you may not get through this social distancing period with your sanity in tact, this prayer is for you. Let us pray:



- #Homeschooling thing sorted 🤔
- 9am, home economics- how to make me coffee
 - 10am , mechanical engineering, how to assemble & operate a shark Hoover
 - 11am , PE, run outside putting recycle& rubbish out
 - 1pm- chemistry- how to bleach the loo
 - 2pm- geography- lesson, in where floor items that they tossed there belong! tidy up put away ready for use another day!
 - 3pm- science, how fairy liquid removes grease from pans
 - 5pm afterschool club, go to your room on your ipad and be quiet 🤫

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

The world is in a muddle as it's spinning round and round,

The story is a bug escaped and running hit the ground.

Vast cities did not see it pass, for it charged through on its course

So quickly, that it left its tracks, causing hardship and remorse.

The word went out to capture it and bring it to account,

Its evil path left thousands ill and deaths began to mount.

'Stay in and do not socialise'; would this advice be taken?

For nations act in different ways, each knowing their population.

With supermarket shelves depleted, so many without reason,

All governments were forced to act to avoid a bigger crazy season.

Written by Dorothy Bentley Smith.

National Carers' Week

8th - 14th June 2020



The six national charities supporting [Carers' Week 2020](#), sponsors, NHS England, ADASS and local government representatives joined a virtual roundtable with the Care Minister, Helen Whately on Wednesday 20th May 2020 to discuss the vital role of unpaid carers in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marking the start of the countdown to Carers' Week, which takes place between 8th and 14th June 2020, the roundtable was an opportunity for the charities to highlight the additional pressure on unpaid carers during the pandemic and the support they will need in the future. Previous research by Carers UK showed that 70% of unpaid carers were providing more care for loved ones during the lockdown period, and 55% felt overwhelmed and worried about burning out.

Look at
my face



Look at my face
As you pass
See the lines of exhaustion
Mixed with the grime
How long since I was able to take a bath?

Look at my face
As you scan your phone
Sitting bored on your sofa
I wish I was at home

Look at this face
It's weary and battle scarred
Bruised and bleeding
From a mask tied too hard

Look at my face
In second hand scrubs
And hands itching
From ill fitting gloves

Look at this face
That stares death in the eye
On a day to day basis
But, I'm too tired to cry

Look at this face
As, with my life, I gamble
To serve those who need me
With no preamble

Look at this face
I'm past the point of no return
I made the choice to work
Many bridges I had to burn

Look at this face
Overwhelmed and confused
I chose this vocation,
So, how could I refuse?

Look at my face
There are millions just like me
All fighting this battle
As far as the eye can see

Look at my face
Every time I inhale
In the environment I work in
Wonder, if my protection will fail

Look at my face
Post traumatic stress
Can't allow myself the time
To myself to confess

Look at this face
Take a good long look my way
Do I look happy?
Or is it my turn today?

Look at my face
Will I return home each night
And bring more than my memories
Of this eternal fight

Look at my face
I've witnessed carnage and chaos
In a few short weeks
Please pray for us

The message is clear
Just look at my face
Go home and stay there
Keep us all safe

Look at this face
Could it look any worse?
You'd think I'm a soldier
No, I'm just a nurse

This is a battle
We have to win
Look at my face
AND STAY IN!!!

Copyright Andrea Walker
Submitted by Richard Johnson

Prayers for Karen Brady



So, please pray for Karen as she takes these last few days to prepare for her first post as parish priest.

We pray that the journey she begins now will be fulfilling, rewarding and life enriching and that her gifts and talents will truly flourish. We pray for the mission and ministry of her new church and parish.

Our last message to you Karen - well what else could it be, for it is the one you gave us?



My Izzy turns 17 this month. I've got this lockdown driving lesson thing covered! Ed



Karen is being inducted to her new parish church: St Michael & All Angels, Runcorn next Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm. The service is being conducted by Rt Revd Keith Sinclair by Zoom. We have an invitation to 'attend' the service from the comfort of our sofa with some kind of device. If you would like the details, please contact [Sue](#). You will need to register first and then once registered you will be sent the Zoom invitation, most likely on the day. Karen has also given us the order of service which we can email to you.

★
★ SHINE like stars in the universe ★
★

"It was at that point the car engine turned on by itself, and I accidentally drove 250 miles to Durham."



Well, thank goodness the virus can't move sideways.



Lockdown can only go 4-ways. You'll come out a monk, a hunk, a chunk or a drunk. Choose wisely. 🤖



Overheard in Lockdown

In a Church Email

On 19 May 2020 11:41, "Office - St. Michael's and All Angels " <office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk> wrote:

You have been invited to the following event hosted by Tricia Atherton.

St Mike's Coffee and Chat by Zoom

Dear Tricia and Martin, sorry I could not make it today to the Zoom coffee morning due to my Zoom physiotherapy class.

Best regards
Church Member

In Reid Towers, Macclesfield

Izzy: Even with online church by Zoom in our own home, we are still the last to leave church, Mum!!!

In a garden in Macclesfield

Our garden is weed free for the first time in years. Recycling centre shut! Spending pretty much all day in the garden, chopping dead trees into very small pieces to await green collection. Bin full, black bags stacked in shed. We need rain!

In a Household with Teenagers

Kids have turned into huge slugs. They leave a trail of slime wherever they have been in the form of used dishes, overflowing bins, clothes on floor, bathroom gross. They get up anytime between noon and 2pm! She who will remain nameless was up early and did an Instagram challenge from friends – a 5 km jog/run raising money for NHS.

He who will remain nameless has been in bed nearly all day. He is going to end up with bed sores.

Kids received an email from school saying they have to go online and register between 9 and 9.30 am on Monday. So He who also remains nameless is already working on an automatic email which will register him!

In an exercise conscious household

We're trying to alternate yoga and walks. We do this online yoga with a gorgeous Texan. I'm doing Pilates twice a week on Zoom. Tried 15 minutes with Joe Wilcks – nearly finished me off!

In every household in our parish

Grandad has buzz cut his head – all the young lads on Instagram are doing it so he wanted to be cool too. But his young lad days are long gone! Chris hasn't shaved for a week.

I got bored and shaved off my beard. And we just tried to cut Andy's long curly hair but I'm not sure it was very successful.

Where can I get hairdressing scissors? I ordered some online only to find out they're not going to deliver for over 3 weeks!

I've ordered some dog hair clippers – poor thing can't see through his fringe at the moment.

What's the best 'do it yourself' hair dye or root tint to use?

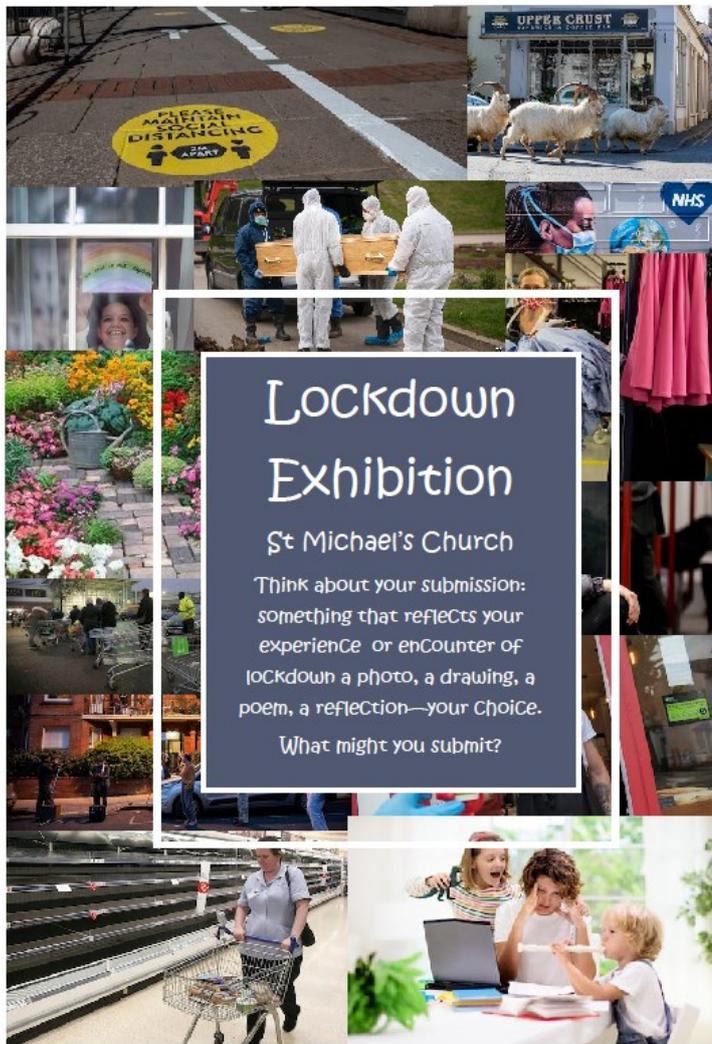
In the baking lover's world

Anyone know where I can buy flour?

At the neighbor's doorstep (socially distanced of course!)

Today we asked some elderly neighbours if we could pick anything up for them from Sainsbury's. They said yes please. The key items at the top of the list? Gin, jam doughnuts and Maltesers I don't blame them with times like these.





Lockdown Exhibition

St Michael's Church

Think about your submission: something that reflects your experience or encounter of lockdown a photo, a drawing, a poem, a reflection—your choice.

What might you submit?

In a crisis?

Anxious? Worried? Stressed?
Get 24/7 help from our team of Crisis Volunteers

TEXT 85258

Shout offers a free mental health text support service for young people. There have been a number of recent reports of young people taking their own lives following anxieties over the effect lockdown would have on their GCSEs or A-Levels, please ensure that all of your young people have access to and know about 'Shout UK'.

Anyone can **text 85258** for support.

Find out more about shout [here](#)



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845

07958181927

10am - 4pm every day



READY TO LISTEN!



Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



Do you have creative talents that you are hiding under a bushel?

Yes?

We need your help...

We are currently reviewing our church website. Can you help us to:

- build a new one?
- review existing one?
- take up to date photos etc.?

Perhaps you can make recommendations on web platforms, or have seen examples of good websites you can signpost us to, or maybe you even know someone who could help. [Please get in touch.](#)