



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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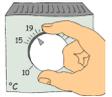
Eco-Pledges

Below is a list of all the pledges people made in our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 31st October. Only you will ever know if you have successfully carried these through.



Mine is number 26 - so you can all call me to account (and you no doubt will!).

Lynne

1. Talk to MP about impact of climate change	
2. Eat less meat x 5	
3. Buy butcher's meet if needed	
4. Plant a tree x 7	
5. Buy less stuff	
6. Think before I buy	
7. Green my house (review everything)	
8. Be less wasteful	
9. Recycle at charity shops	
10. Consider buying an electric or hybrid car when I change my car	
11. Use less chemicals	
12. Become vegetarian	
13. Walk more x 2	
14. Travel by bus rather than by car, or walk, as much as possible	
15. Use less plastic x 5	
16. Carbon balance holidays, etc.	
17. Sow seeds and plant more trees	
18. Drive electric	
19. Make and use own compost	
20. Shop locally	
21. Encourage bees	
22. Drink only oat milk in Advent	
23. Consume less, use the car less, shop at Scoop and Scales,	
24. reduce plastic, do menu-planning to reduce waste	
25. Make less waste	
26. Use less heating/wear more jumpers x 3	
27. Look into solar power and air-source heating for our home	
28. Work more for charitable trusts on green issues (National Trust)	
29. Waste less food	
30. Buy local and seasonal x 4	
31. Growing own food	
32. Plant conkers	
33. Speak out more and encourage others	
34. Plant more	
35. Our next car will be electric and I will try to use toothpaste tablets not paste	
36. Turn down my thermostat	
37. Try to reduce climate damage	
38. Drive less and consider when to change the car	
39. Get the church heating more efficient	
40. Change from a diesel car	
41. Switch things off when not using them	
42. Use public transport rather than driving	SWITCH OFF
43. Turn everything down	
44. Not buy plastic things, walk more for shopping, grow veg	
45. Litter-pick when walking	

The Third Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

7th November 2021

The Third Sunday before Advent
Church Family Communion—10:00am
Leader: Mike Strutt
Speaker: Mike Strutt
Reading: Mark 12:38-44

Wednesday Morning Coffee and a Chat



WARNING! Prepare to be confused.com

Can you name all the twelve disciples?

I was asked this question one day when I was showing a visitor around our church. To my embarrassment, I couldn't! Can you? Check your answers by looking at the bible references

Matthew 10.2-4, Mark 3.14-19, Luke 6. 13-16

Dek googled it and ended up with the names of 15 disciples!!!

In our Coffee and chat group on Wednesday mornings we have already looked at a couple of the characters – Judas Iscariot and Simon the Zealot, so this week we decided to investigate another lesser known disciple – James, the son of Alphaeus, otherwise known as James the Lesser or James the Younger. Not a very affirming moniker. Maybe it was given to him because he wasn't very important or because he was short of stature or because he was the youngest. Kitey remembered that when she was in a friendship group that included three Annes she was called Little Anne to distinguish her from the others. This would make sense because there is another disciple in the list also named James- but he was the son of Zebedee and brother to John (another disciple).

To confuse things further one of the other disciples is described as 'son of Alphaeus' see Mark 2.14, so it is possible that Matthew, also known as Levi, and James were brothers. But scholars think not because all the other sets of brothers are listed together. It is probably a different Alphaeus who fathered Levi (Matthew)

There is also another James who is named as the brother of Jesus Mark 6.3 'Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon and are not his sisters here too?' See also Matthew 13:55, Acts 1:13. As Heather said 'we don't hear much about Jesus' family so this is interesting.

So, could our James be the same person as the brother of Jesus? Well, no, because he was described as son of Alphaeus. In my wild imaginings I consider the possibility that Mary, the mother of Jesus had got married again to someone called Alphaeus. After all, Joseph was quite a lot older than Mary and may have died. But these were only my thoughts and there is probably no foundation for this idea. Some scholars have put forward the notion that Joseph had children from a previous marriage and these were Jesus step- siblings. Alternatively, they could be cousins. In some cultures, cousins are called cousin brothers or cousin sisters. All this is total speculation of course.

You can see that we got ourselves into quite a twist over this and Helen said I'd opened a can of worms! I must admit I ended up more confused than when we started out. I'm not even going to mention the interesting chat about James and the scallop shell.

Something that cannot be denied about our James is that he spent three years living closely with Jesus and was part of the ministry at that time. In addition, he didn't run away after the crucifixion and resurrection because he is named as being present in the Upper Room. In Acts 1. 13-16 we see the inner circle meeting together and constantly devoting themselves to prayer. This group includes all the named disciples except Judas Iscariot but the text also specifies certain women including the mother of Jesus and his brothers. So, James, son of Alphaeus went on to be an Apostle and as we learned last week the word apostle means 'one who is sent'. Some think he was sent to Egypt, but wherever he was sent he was one of the strong and brave Early Church Leaders – not bad for a guy called James the Lesser.

I didn't get around to adding this further piece of information into the chat - When Jesus died on the cross there was a woman there named Mary, mother of James the Younger Mark 15.40 'There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joses, and Salome.'

So, our James could be the son of Alphaeus and this Mary.

Noooo! Stop it.

Oh dear!! Family history can be very confusing.

If anyone can shed any light on this topic please feel free to contact us or join our Zoom on Wednesday morning, 11am. The link is on the back page of the newsletter. Thankyou.

Tricia Atherton

Eco-Church Meeting



The next meeting of the Eco-church group will be on Tuesday 9th November 7.30pm in the 1st Floor Room. All welcome to discuss our plans to apply for the eco-church silver award and to seek a Christian response to the discussions at the Cop26 conference



Music@Mike's

Friday 5th November
Soprano **Rachel Abbott** &
accompanist **Tom Pieczora**



Rachel's programme will include songs by Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Porter and Loewe
Concert begins at 1.15pm.

Refreshments including soup and/or a full lunch will be available from the Angel At My Table café both before and after the concert.

As usual entrance is free but donations will be welcomed.

Harvest Thanks

We celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving last Sunday and I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone who made this such a wonderful occasion by donating so generously to the Foodbank.



The harvest table at church

Take a look at the loaded table, with goods overflowing onto the floor (and lots of additional bags hidden behind the table)!

I counted over 120 tins, and around 40 packets of rice, pasta, instant mash & spaghetti, 15 jars of sauces, 12 packets of cereals, 20 packets of biscuits, about 10 large packs of tea-bags, plus many additional items: toiletries, chocolates, unusual goodies, etc.

Thank you all so much. The goods have now been delivered to the Foodbank and there is no doubt that they will be greatly appreciated.



Getting to our front door proved a little difficult until we could deliver the goods on Tuesday!

Thanks also to those who gave monetary contributions, amounting to £50. This has been passed on to the Foodbank for them to purchase items they most need.

Lynne



Christmas at Styal Prison

At the risk of creating “generosity fatigue” (which I’m sure will never happen at St Mike’s) I’d like to make another request for contributions to a worthy cause.

Styal Prison would welcome gifts of Selection Boxes (a variety pack of chocolates) or mini-notebooks* to give to prisoners for Christmas. (***These notebooks need purchasing by me through monetary donations as the design is quite specific, for safety reasons. They cost £3.00 each.**)

I know that there are people at St Mike’s who like to support good causes, particularly at Christmas. There are so many to choose from and we each have our specials but, if you feel you could help out with this one, David Mayers, Kitey (Anne Kite) and I will be delighted to receive your gifts and get them to Styal in due course.

Most of you know that, as a church family, we have had quite a close relationship with Styal and with one of the Chaplains, Yvonne, for many years. A new Chaplain, Louise, has recently been appointed following Yvonne’s retirement, and David and I went to meet her for a chat and a cuppa at “The Clink” restaurant a few weeks ago.

Primarily we are interested in what we can do practically and prayerfully as a congregation to support the prisoners, many of whom are in prison for offences which would be best dealt with in a less draconian way, and whose sentences impact dreadfully on any children they have. Many of them have little or no home support, and most have precious little sense of self-worth or confidence.

The women are immensely moved when they receive a small Christmas gift and realise that there *are* people who care about them.

Please Help

David and I (and Kitey *in absentia!*) offered to assist by providing as many of these gifts as we can with the support of our lovely church community (that’s you!).

We were surprised to learn how unusual it is for churches to support prison work. For me personally, such work is an imperative: Matthew 25: 31-46 (The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats) was my reason for becoming a part-time voluntary prison chaplain for a few years after retirement, and it seems clear that Jesus himself considered prisoners as much in need of our love and care as the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger and the poor.



This risks becoming another sermon - so I’d better sign off now!

Please give your donations to me (Lynne Spedding), David Mayers, Anne Kite or leave them in the clearly labelled box in the Welcome Area (which will be emptied frequently to stop Paul Spedding pinching the chocolates!).

Lynne



Harvest Flowers

In case you didn't get an opportunity to look at the Harvest Flowers at close quarters last Sunday, here are some photographs of them:



Chancel, east end, on the former altar/Communion Table



At the back (south-west) of the nave, on the bookcase



On one of the tombs between the nave and the Savage Chapel (just behind the eagle lectern!)

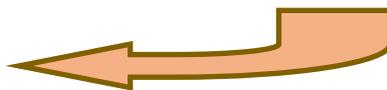


Nave north-east - near the organ pipes

Our thanks to the creative team who decorated the church so beautifully for us: Kitey, Sandie, Heather and Bernice.

(And, please note, our floral artists at church stopped using environmentally damaging products like oasis foam many years ago!)

What a lovely photograph of Marion Porter and 4 of her grandchildren (Thea, Evie, Isla and Poppy) with their harvest crowns.



Open Studio Days 2021

Any Sunday in November between 12 noon and 6pm.



Olga Bileski invites you to view her work and enjoy a cuppa. She will also be happy to answer any questions about the work.

ICONS..PAINTINGS..HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS..HANDPAINTED SILK SCARVES (All make great gifts for Christmas, the scarves are especially useful for sending by post as they are so light, can usually be sent in a card.)

Booking is essential, as only 2 people will be allowed at any one time (for health and safety), and there's a small entry fee of £2 p.p. refundable on purchases over £6.

Please email olga.bileski@outlook.com Or TEXT 07722432689 for more details and location.

Did someone say FREE TICKETS?



Would you like a free concert? Would you be willing to be a St Michael's Steward?

We have a number of concerts and carol services booked into St Michael's in December; some of these are evening events and some school events which are during the day. For almost all of these St Michael's should provide a steward (or two). The role of the steward is principally to welcome the visitors into our "home" by being a good host. You may have to advise about fire exits, lights, or any other random question – or you may just need to open the doors and lock up at the end.

We will make sure you have all the information you need beforehand and all the details of specific requirements for the event.

The reward? A free ticket for the concert or event, and grateful thanks from the event organiser and the St Michael's office.

We have 12-14 slots to fill – could you offer one evening or afternoon? If this is something for you, please contact the office on office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk.

Many thanks!!

Rachel Mayers

COP26 Service

7th November at 7pm in St. Michael's – an opportunity to share with Christians from across the town in the prayer and worship offered by Tearfund through their Cop26 service, featuring Pete Greig, Carol Ng'ang'a and Celtic Worship.

The service will last about 45 minutes and be followed by refreshments and an opportunity for discussion.



TLC (THURSDAY, LISTEN, CHAT)

PLEASE NOTE!

We are changing the time of our fortnightly meetings from Thursday afternoons to **Thursday MORNINGS 11.15am to 12.15pm** which will follow the Thursday morning service and may be a more convenient time.

This will start on **4th November** and will take place on the 1st floor (there is a lift) until further notice.

All are very welcome to share with us and enjoy a cuppa and chat.

Contact Grace on 430348 or Alexa on 429727 if you need further info.



Silklife Foodbank

foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

We have a box in the Welcome Area for Silklife Foodbank contributions.

Would YOU be willing to take responsibility for our link with the Foodbank?

We need someone who:

- Collects donations from the box in church (can be done any time)
- Delivers our donations to the Foodbank on George St (Tuesdays and/or Fridays)
- Keeps in touch with the Foodbank every so often, to find out if there are any specific needs, and to keep St Michael's informed about their work.

If we cannot find someone to take this on, there may not be a collection point at St Michael's any longer, but we will advise where donations may be taken.

Rachel Mayers

Rotary
Macclesfield Castle



CHARITIES BAZAAR

ST MICHAELS CHURCH,
MACCLESFIELD

REFRESHMENTS
CHARITY STALLS
CHRISTMAS CARDS
GIFTS

SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER
09:30-12:30

£1 ADMISSION
CHILDREN FREE

REGISTERED CHARITY
1038759




Do you want to hear a joke?

An angel appears at a faculty meeting and tells the dean, "In return for your unselfish and exemplary behavior, the Lord will reward you with your choice of infinite wealth, wisdom, or beauty." "Give me infinite wisdom!" declares the dean, without hesitation. "Done!" says the angel before disappearing in a cloud of smoke. All heads now turn to the dean, who sits surrounded by a faint halo of light. "Well," says a colleague, "say something brilliant." The dean stands and, with the poise of Socrates, opines, "I should have taken the money."



JUST DROP IN (JDI)

Gordon and I went along last week to the Just Drop In AGM on behalf of St Michael's Church and this year it was held at Macclesfield Library.

We were warmly welcomed by Steve Oliver (Chairman of the Trustees) and the TEAM from JDI. His address, included talking about the pressures during Lock Down, although on the positive side the JDI Team had still managed to support so many children and young adults. They are also heavily involved in organising meetings with the parents of children who are finding it difficult to cope as well as acting as a liaison with them and the schools.

It really is amazing the work JDI carry out supporting children through their various well being projects and counselling services, especially when you hear they had 1317 referrals for their services last year.

Sadly, over the past year St Michael's has been unable to support JDI financially, but if anyone wishes to know more about the work they do and obviously, they are always looking for volunteers – then do have a word with Gordon and myself.

The big news is that they are moving to larger premises in the town complete with up to date disability access at 15 Brook Street in late November. Tours will be taking place between 11.00 am and 4.00 pm on Friday, 26th November (see poster at the back of Church)

Please do remember in your prayers Steve and all the TEAM at JDI as they move into their new "home" and celebrating 20 years of JDI in Macclesfield. (Please see the posters on the Notice Board at the back of Church).

Vicky & Gordon Darlington

We invite you to join us for the
First Hope Supporters Get-Together of 2021
with a focus on

**Renewing relationships and discussing ways
for members of the Hope Churches
to be involved locally in Festival Manchester**

at Holy Trinity Church Hurdsfield (HTH), Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield SK10 2PX
7.00pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday 24th November 2021

The Church Leaders in Hope in NE Cheshire would be delighted if you would join us for this special occasion - a chance to renew relationships and share experiences and plans. You will be welcomed with light refreshments on your arrival!

Do bring your friends, members of your family and your colleagues!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We very much look forward to seeing you

With every blessing

Pip

Pip Mosscrop, Co-ordinator, Hope in NE Cheshire

**Please reply by email to pipmosscrop2@yahoo.co.uk
or text to 07715 495701**

And by the way

Hope Street Angels Macclesfield is soon to re-start!

Would you, your colleagues, family and friends like to experience a night out with Street Angels in Macclesfield Town Centre - a taster?

Well here is the opportunity! A poster is attached! Just email me at pipmosscrop2@yahoo.co.uk or text me to 07715 495701 and we should be delighted to arrange your night-out-on-the-town!



Saturday 20 November

**Join us at All Saints' Church, Macclesfield
as we have a fun quiz evening at 7pm**

You are welcome to book tables of 6
or come and join others at a table.

Please bring your own drinks and refreshments, we'll supply tea and coffee. It is **free** to book but we'd love **donations** to **Tearfund**.

During the evening there will be opportunities to **learn** about the work of **Tearfund** and **donate** to its important work around the world.

To book a table, or place, please contact our quizmaster, Philip Marsh
on 01625 471139
or at phil marg32@gmail.com

tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom
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tearfund

NEW MUSIC TERMS

- ALLEREGRETTO:** When you're 16 measures into the piece and suddenly realize you set too fast a tempo
- ANGUS DEI:** To play with a divinely beefy tone
- A PATELLA:** Accompanied by knee-slapping
- APOLOGGIATURA:** A composition that you regret playing
- APPROXIMATURA:** A series of notes not intended by the composer, yet played with an "I meant to do that" attitude
- APPROXIMENTO:** A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch
- DILL PICCOLINI:** An exceedingly small wind instrument that plays only sour notes
- FERMANTRA:** A note held over and over and over and over and . . .
- FIDDLER CRABS:** Grumpy string players
- FLUTE FLIES:** Those tiny insects that bother musicians on outdoor gigs
- FRUGALHORN:** A sensible and inexpensive brass instrument
- GAUL BLATTER:** A French horn player
- GREGORIAN CHAMP:** The title bestowed upon the monk who can hold a note the longest
- PLACEBO DOMINGO:** A faux tenor
- SPRITZICATO:** An indication to string instruments to produce a bright and bubbly sound
- TEMPO TANTRUM:** What an elementary school orchestra is having when it's not following the conductor

Join us for

Worship



St Michael's Worship 7th November 2021

The Third Sunday before Advent
Church Family Communion—10:00am:
live in church / streamed on Youtube

Service Leader: Mike Strutt

Talk: Mike Strutt

Reading: Mark 12:38-44

Please use the link below to stream the Service on Youtube. The stream will go live from 10:00am on Sunday or you can catch up later.

<https://youtu.be/NnYXS5k-gCE>

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

4th November —Midweek Morning Communion

11th November —Midweek Morning Prayer

(and then alternate thereafter...)

Our midweek services follow the order from the book of Common Prayer (the old order)

How to contact the Office...



CONTACT US

Phone—Landline—01625 421 984

Mobile— 07579 820 265 (on

Thursdays when Porsche is working from home)

Email— clergypa@maccteam.org.uk to contact Porsche

- office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to contact

Rachel for room bookings and building matters

- stmikesnotices@gmail.com for newsletter items.

- maccteamprinting@gmail.com for all printing

enquiries.

In Person—The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

Please note Porsche is usually in the office on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays** between **9:30am-2:30pm**. **Wednesday** is her day off and **Thursday** she works from home between the same hours.

Rachel's office hours are not set so please make a prior appointment if you wish to meet with Rachel in person.

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Coffee & Chat



Monday HomeGroup

When? 7.30pm - 9pm Monday evenings
(Fortnightly) Next meeting is Monday 25th October

Where? The Rectory, Beech Lane, SK10 2DY

For more information contact Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110.

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer in various locations.

Please contact David Mayers (420716) or

Eve and David Budgett (431606) for more information.



Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

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



Email any [prayer requests](#) here

DONATIONS: Donating to the church for general purposes has been made simpler. Either click on the blue Donate button or scan the QR Code.

