

ST MIKE'S NEWS

ISSUE 18 9 MAY 2021

A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19



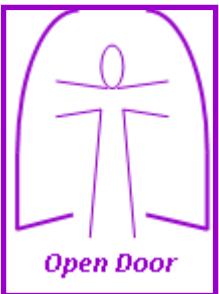
@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Instagram



Church Together Apart



Merged Meeting and Worship

This Sunday's merged morning worship will also include our Annual Meeting – a doubly-merged occasion?

Although not ideal for everyone, I do think it's important to recognise that adherence to good governance is also part of our offering to God.

Copies of the Annual and Financial reports have been circulated beforehand – please do look through them. It would be really helpful if we could receive in advance any specific comments or questions you'd like to ask. Please could you leave them on my answerphone (01625 426110) or email them to me at teamrector.macc@gmail.com?

If you would like to give your apologies please pass them on to Paul Spedding, Secretary (01625 614819, paulspedding@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Mark

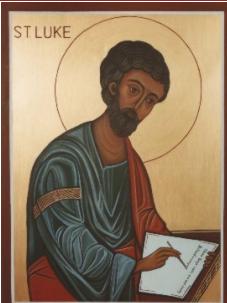


Church Flowers

The flowers in the Worship Area have been graciously given by Greba Jones in loving memory of beloved husband Philip. Sadly missed by many.

Thank you Greba.

The pink and blue flowers on the Worship Table are in loving memory of Bridget and Christopher Brookes at this time.



Living Luke

On Wednesday 12th May Chester Cathedral begins a series of 8 weekly Bible study sessions (on Zoom), focusing on episodes from Luke's Gospel.

Attached with this newsletter is a full programme or click [here](#)

The sessions begin at 1.10pm each week.

The Zoom link can be obtained by contacting:

deansoffice@chestercathedral.com



Celebrations of Holy Communion

Next Thursday (13th May) is Ascension Day, and the start of 11 days of prayer as part of 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in the main body of St Michael's at 10.30am.

Also, our Sunday worship on Pentecost (23rd May) will include a celebration of Holy Communion.

As at Christmas and Easter, communicants will receive in one kind only.



Music@Mike's is back!

And what better way to start the new season that to enjoy the special sound of our very own **Arrhythmics** - that well-known instrumental music combo.

1.15pm on Thursday 20th May

Please see the full programme attached along with this newsletter (and excuse the odd typo therein: these will be corrected!)

9th May 2021: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday Morning Service

(including our Annual Church Meeting)

Leader: Rev'd Martin Stephens

Speaker: Rev'd Barry Langman

Bible Reading: John 15:9-17



Many thanks for all the cards and messages of condolence that we have received and for your thoughts and prayers on the death of Paul's brother John and Ruth's sister Katharine.

Having shared our sadness, please share our joy for the birth of our third grandchild, Nicholas Paul Simms, in Toronto on Sunday 2nd May. Mother and baby doing fine.

Paul and Ruth



India Direct News

A letter from Annie, trustee of one of ID's partner charities.

The Covid-19 second wave is causing disaster in our country, as you have known and seen on the BBC and other channels. You would have got a clear picture of the happenings in our country.

Every month we are providing the families of our children with rice and provisions. The parents are very happy and content with our 'Joy Kit' – providing food and hygiene supplies for the whole family. Awareness about the benefits of vaccination is conveyed through our staff to the parents in the villages and we have encouraged them to take the vaccination. As you know, the death rate is increasing and some of our children have single parents, so we explain to them the necessity of vaccination and social distancing.

Most of the children came into our care due to extreme poverty, unable to have three meals a day. We brought them into institutional care, away from their home. During the pandemic, one good thing happened. In spite of the clutches of poverty, the children are living with their parents and still have three meals a day. It's all a gift of love from you. The parents are really happy about this and the children too. I hope you are able to understand their feeling. They live as a family and still their food is taken care of. There is so much emotion involved in this act.

But what worries us is their education being paused, their capability of memorising, writing, reading and their loss of knowledge about anything around. They are extremely below poverty line and far off from digital world to study online. Their parents are not literate. So far, all the parents and children in our care are doing well and are not affected by the virus. Thank you for your support in midst of this pandemic. You're a great hope for many little ones. Thank you for your prayers.

<https://indiadirect.org.uk/news/may-2021-covid-update-from-india/>



While the church building was closed and there was therefore no access to the Foodbank Box in the Welcome Area, quite a few people took Paul and me up on our offer to get donations to the Foodbank, and they brought supplies to our house.

Now that St Michael's is open daily and also for Sunday Worship, there is no need for anyone to trek to our house to make their contributions.

Please use the Church Foodbank Box - as in pre-Covid times! And a massive thank-you to all who brought round impressive supplies. We know how appreciated and (sadly) how necessary they are.

Lynne & Paul



Enid has decided that, after over 40 years of having been involved in church cleaning, it is now time for her to retire from this role (*she's obviously got no staying power! - Ed.*)

We are immensely indebted to Enid for her dedication and commitment to St Michael's. Cleaning the building is one of the unseen and sometimes unappreciated roles in church, but we all reap the benefits of the efforts made behind the scenes.

We thank Enid sincerely for all her hard work.

She will continue to serve as our Funeral Verger and of course will remain part of our church family, worshipping and assisting in voluntary roles as she has always done.

We wish her a long and happy retirement from the cleaning tasks and thank her sincerely for all her hard work. Thanks to Tony too, who has always supported Enid as Cleaner's Assistant!



Dignity. Equality. Justice. Love.

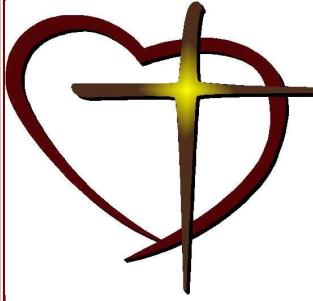
Christian Aid Week : 10 - 16 May 2021

The climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means **people like Rose** are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms. Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Together we stop this climate crisis.

We will have a speaker from Christian Aid at our service here at St Michael's on 16th May, and there will be more opportunities to give to and get involved in the vital work of Christian Aid in our newsletter next week



Funeral of the late Christopher Brooks

Christopher's funeral will be taking place in St Michael's at 11.45am on Monday 17th May – the date of the next phase of the Government's roadmap. This means the number able to attend the funeral can increase to our regular capacity of 60.

So if you would like to attend the funeral please do come along (no booking required).



A special concert will take place on Saturday 8th May at 7.00 pm when the Gildas Quartet will combine with the award-winning poet and author Michael Symmonds Roberts for a rare performance of Haydn's Seven Words of Christ.

Bollington resident Michael will read his own text between the seven pieces of music.



The performance will be at Bollington Arts Centre and whilst no audience is allowed yet the performance will be streamed through the website www.Bollington-chamber-concerts.org.

It can be viewed free of charge but donations are invited.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

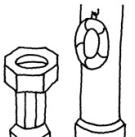
GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES: THINGS YOU NEED TO DO



RISK ASSESSMENTS BEFORE EACH SERVICE



HI-VIS JACKETS FOR SIDESPERSONS



A LIFERELT NEXT TO THE FONT



PADDED BUFFERS ON PEW-ENDS FOR CHILDREN CAREERING AROUND THE AISLES AT HIGH SPEED



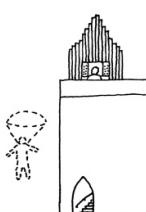
HARD HATS FOR ANYONE CARRYING A STICK



GLOVES TO BE USED BY ALL BISCUIT-ARRANGERS



A SERVER TO TRY THE COMMUNION WINE IN THE VESTRY (IN CASE POISONED)



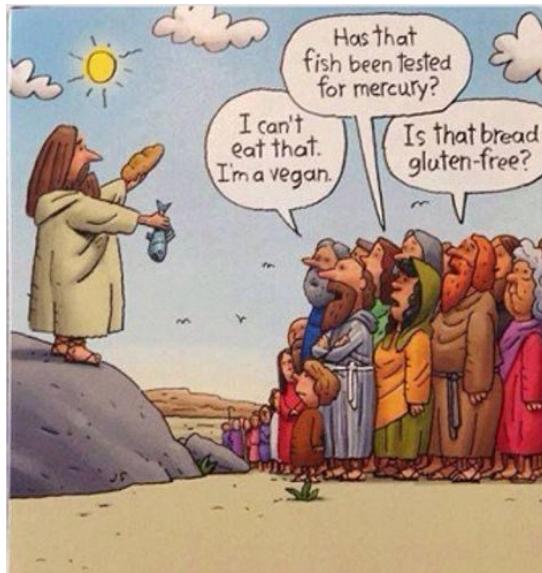
PARACHUTE FOR EMERGENCY DESCENT FROM ORGAN LOFT



Following Enid's retirement from her cleaning role, we require a replacement to work 4-5 hours a week.

This is a paid post.

If anyone is interested please contact Chris Wightman. 01625 428443 or 07818 484570.



Thank You

Facebook Morning Prayer and Zoom Night Prayer



I want to extend my GREAT appreciation to the small team of people who've led Morning Prayer on Facebook six mornings a week since April 2020.

With a few hiccups (like when I led on a phone from Oxford and the video was on its side!) and with only one week's break after Christmas, this short time of prayer, Bible reading and reflection is soon to become a weekly-only occasion, at 8.30am on Mondays led by the Start the Week team.

From Ascension Day until Pentecost (13th to 23rd May inclusive) Night Prayer will be held on Zoom at 8.30pm, and continuing every Friday throughout the year thereafter.

Mark

Join us for
Sunday Worship

St Michael's Worship and Annual Meeting
9th May 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Merged service this week at 10.00am:
live in church / from home on Zoom

To join by Zoom click on the image or use

Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379

Password: 01625

Service Leader: Rev. Martin Stephens

Talk: Rev. Barry Langman

Reading: John 15:9-17



Can't join us live? Watch the recording of our morning worship service on Zoom at a time to suit you after Sunday lunchtime [here](#)

No Computer? No problem!

You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and services
with your landline phone



If phoning:

Dial **0330 088 5830**.

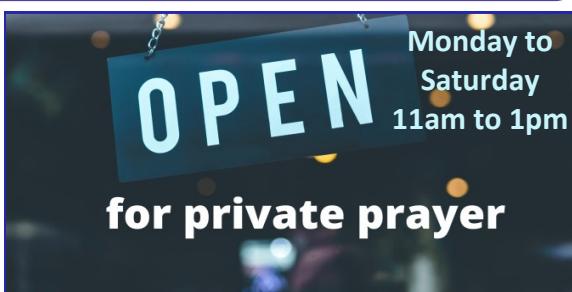
When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID**
from any of these boxes followed by #

[For Sunday's service: **939 7279 7379**]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here



St Michael's Church is now open daily 11.00am-1.00pm for private prayer



Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 971 3599 5784

Passcode: 01625



Monday HomeGroup

When? **7.30pm - 9pm** Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228

Password: Monday

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

Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm using same 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. We are studying *The Prayer Course* at the moment.



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



SCAN ME

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

[Click here to donate towards our church's ministry](#)

