

@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on
Instagram

Walls and bridges

I've found this Holy Week and forthcoming season of Easter more challenging than usual.

As in previous years, there will be some of our well-appreciated and helpful regular events (Tenebrae at URC, Good Friday morning service and afternoon Contemplating the Cross, and Easter Day celebration).

What makes this year so different is the wider context – not only the ongoing impact of the pandemic but the situation in Ukraine (in particular), as well as the ongoing future that our Prime Minister has broken the law.

Has the death and resurrection of Jesus nearly 2000 years ago got anything to say to our lives now? I identify with the words of St Paul: 'If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world.' (1 Cor.15:19)

...

Earlier this week I was out, running with a friend, when we passed this bit of wall.



Can you see where part of the wall is missing? The mortar is cracked and there are loose stones; I haven't tried pushing on it but the wall looks very precarious! I've reported it and expect it to get repaired.

Yet, if we're honest, in our lives there are often walls which need to be knocked down.

If someone hurts us and we choose not to trust 'their sort' again, we're building a wall.

If our generosity is abused and we become more miserly, we're building a wall.

If our help is misunderstood or unappreciated and we become more wary next time, we're building a wall.

By his death and resurrection Jesus has simultaneously been building bridges and knocking down walls – building bridges between us and God (enabling us to know that we are supremely and eternally loved), and knocking down walls (walls of fear, anger, isolation, bitterness, and so on).

Currently, on the global stage, we see a dictator who, for years, has been building walls around himself and his nation, seemingly fearful of enemies and suspicious of everyone else. When 'meeting' with advisors or foreign leaders Vladimir Putin is physically isolated, and his actions embody pure evil.

In contrast, Volodymyr Zelensky has been building bridges within his own country and with the wider world. We have seen him stay, identify with and lead his people when their nation is under attack. We have been moved by his humility and compassion, and by his thankfulness to others for their help. What a contrast with the Russian leader!

I don't want to take the Ukrainian President's character out of context, and am wary of glorifying things in any way, but do you see a connection with Jesus here?

When telling me of difficult times in their lives, people have often told me that it was God staying with them – sensing Him to be near – which was the thing that got them through dark times. It is the reality of Jesus' promise as He ascended into heaven .. "Remember, I will be with you, always." (Matt.28:20)

Many of you know, from personal experience, this to be true. So my head, my heart, and my spirit all concur with St Paul when he continues: 'But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death' (1 Cor.15:20a).

If you recognise the need to have a wall knocked down, or desire to know the love of God for yourself, then ask God to do just that. You could use this prayer:

Dear God, whose Love was shown by Jesus, please come into my life and do the demolition*/ bridge-building* work You know I need at this time. Thank you Jesus for dying and rising to new life for me. Holy Spirit be present in me today. In Jesus' name, I pray.

May you know the blessing of the risen Lord this Easter.

Mark

17th April 2022

Easter Day

Said Holy Communion—8am (Savage Chapel)

Church Family Communion—10:00am

Leader: Mike Strutt

Speaker: Mike Strutt

Reading: Luke 24.1-13

St Michael's Annual Meeting (APCM)



After the morning service on Sunday 15th May we'll be holding our Annual Meeting in Church. This is an opportunity to receive a brief report about everything that's been going on in St Michael's in the last year and to discuss our plans for the next year. It's also when we elect our Churchwardens and members of our Church Council (PCC) so it's really important that we get as many church members as possible there.

If you want to nominate somebody to be a Churchwarden or Church Council member there are nomination forms on the noticeboard at the back of the church (near the sound desk). If you aren't going into the building at the moment, please contact Paul Spedding (Church Council Secretary) on 01625 614819 / 07747 622765 or paulspedding@gmail.com



Planning Meeting...

Recently, Tricia met with the organisers of Macc Pride 2022 in our café to discuss our plans at St. Michael's and how we can be an ally and offer our support in 2022.

Plans are still underway and in early discussion stages but please keep your eyes peeled for more news on this in the coming months.

Thank you to Tricia, and all of our volunteers who help keep St. Michael's connected and involved with the wider community of Macclesfield.

SPRING PLANT SALE

Calling all Gardeners!

We are holding a Spring Plant Sale on Saturday 23rd of April and we're looking for...

VOLUNTEERS to help sell plants, serve tea and give expert advice!

GROWERS with spare plants from their gardens or seeds that we can sell on the day.

So, time to get dividing perennials, planting bulbs, and sowing seeds!



www.cre8macclesfield.org

Prayers & Readers Training



Are you already on the Prayers and Readers Rota? If not, would you like to be? This could be a great opportunity for you to become more involved in our services and as a way of offering additional support to our Church Family.

If you are interested in either of these roles then please contact Porsche for more information.

We will also be offering some training on the roles after Easter so whether you are already on the rota or looking to join, please look out for more information on this training coming soon.

Easter Day

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus

Christ

Church Family News

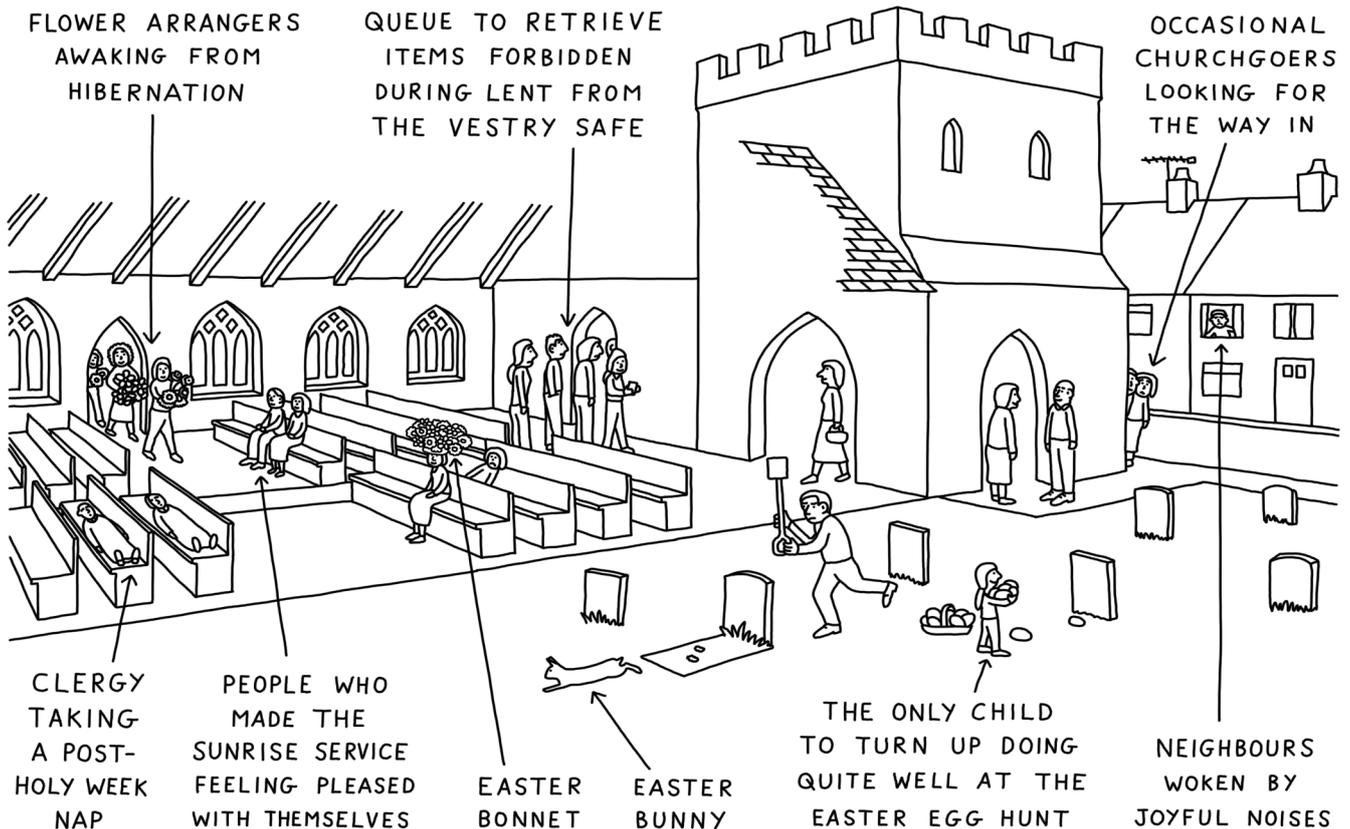
We missed church for a couple of weeks at the end of March as Satsuki-Mei has been competing with her cheerleading team around the country. This was her first competition after her others got cancelled in March 2020. There were a few last minute hitches when covid and chicken pox struck her team mates which meant that in one stunt where Satsuki-Mei used to be held up by 3 girls, now there was only 1!

But overall her team came 5th at the ICE Cooler event in Stoke-on-Trent and 2nd at the American Legacy Dream Extreme event in Birmingham.



Thank you for sharing this Gemma and well done to all of the children involved!

THE EASTER SERVICE





On Saturday 28th May our humans are getting married and it's our job as best dog and dog of honour to let you know that Sue and Kevin would love their church family to celebrate with them on their special day. That would make their day just pawfect.

Of course, they would love to invite you all to the whole day's celebrations but sadly that's not possible otherwise we'd no longer be able to live the pampered life to which we've grown accustomed! But... they would love as many of you as possible to join them at the marriage service at 2.30pm in St Michael's to show them your support and blessing and watch them say 'I do'.

We have our outfits ordered and are booked in at the hairdressers for a cut and blow dry ahead of the big day. And Kez has promised not to roll in fox poo on the morning of the wedding when Sue takes him for early morning walkies.

We have missed our role as the Church Office

Assistants. Since leaving that important role, we have been promoted to Gap Year Student

Supervisor. It's still working from home which is great. The perks aren't as great as the old role but we still get holidays. No sick pay though! And the best thing is we intersperse this role with our other important roles as Head of Home Security and Gap Year Student Personal Protection Officers.

Woof Woof

Kez and Chip



Please join Sue and Kevin at their Marriage Service



Saturday 28th
May
at 2:30pm

Bollinbrook Easter Experience

Just before half term we had the joy of inviting families into school to celebrate the Easter Experience together. Seven stations were set up to depict the main events of the Easter Story from the book of Matthew in the bible. At each station, there were scriptures, displays and interactive activities to complete. The children were excited and enthused by the immersive experience. Here are some comments from pupil voice:

'I felt like I was at the last supper when we were eating the bread and drinking the juice.'

'I absolutely loved the Easter Experience. My favourite station was the Garden of Gethsemane where we thought about someone who has hurt us, put a tablet in the water and watched it dissolve. I thought about my anger and hurt dissolving as the tablet did.'

'Thank you for the Easter trail. I really enjoyed learning about Jesus.'

'The Easter story makes me feel happy because Jesus took our sins away.'

We would like to thank the members from St Michael's Church and the Methodist Church in Macclesfield who came to offer their support and work with groups of children. It was wonderful to see school full of life and love again.

Here are some photos of the wonderful experience sent by Miss Corker.





FUNDRAISING EVENT

A Scottish Celebration for Camas

Please join us for an evening of entertainment on the 14th of May, 7-9:30pm at United Reform Church to raise money for our young people's trip to Camas.

Dinner will be provided along with some ceilidh dancing, a quiz, a raffle and performances by our young people and staff!

Suggested donation of £15.



Contact info@cre8macclesfield.org or call 01625503740 to reserve your ticket!

For more information on the above event, please contact Kitey on 01625 424531

Happy Birthday!

A big Happy Birthday to Chris Huband who recently celebrated his 68th birthday alongside some of our church family!



A blast from the past...

Enid popped in to the office recently and had managed to find an old, but very well preserved newspaper cutting from July 12th 1979 edition of The Advertiser amongst her mother's belongings.

The cutting shows the flower procession through the town centre from St. Andrew's to St. Michael's and includes a few familiar faces which you may be able to recognise. Are you or your family in the photo?

Have a closer look and see who you may find.

Thank you for providing this Enid and it really is great to look back on such fond memories.

defends private **Procession to flower service**

A PROCESSION which began from St. Andrew's Church, Macclesfield ended at St. Michael's Parish Church for the annual flower service, on Sunday morning.

Included in the procession, which is headed in our picture by cross-bearer, Mr Richard Porter, a member of St. Michael's choir, were representatives of several local organisations. From St. Michael's, the Brownies, Scouts and Guides, the Mothers Union, the Association of the Church Fellowship, the Young Wives and Families, Sunday Schools, the Youth Club, and some members of the Christian Service.

From St. Andrew's there were representatives of the Living Room Women's Group, the Ladies Guild, Rangers, Brownies and Scouts, whose band headed the procession.

St. Michael's organist, Mr Stephen Jones, St. Michael's, Rev. Richard Aviary, and layreaders, Mr Ron Sutton, Mr David Andrew, Miss Joyce Clarke, and Miss Dorothy Threlfall were also present. TM 2802

£2,000 donation

£2,000 from Bollington Town Council to the Leisure Centre was approved by the councillors at their meeting last Thursday.

Thanks

We have received a letter of thanks from Matt Tyrer, the Director of Public Health for Cheshire East, for hosting a walk-in Covid test centre (lateral flow testing). This was in our first floor room, every Friday in December and January, and was a convenient way for members of the public to obtain a test result, enabling them (if negative of course!) to join in with social activities.

We were glad to be able to offer this space for the benefit of our town centre community (and the Council did pay us too!)



TFW Church

TFW Big Weekend

with special guest
Dr John Andrews

Sat 14th May

Day Session 9:30am - 3:30pm
[registration £5 at www.tfwchurch.org]

Evening Celebration 7:30pm
[registration free at www.tfwchurch.org]

Sun 15th May

9:00am and 11:00am



John Andrews
author and international speaker

Receive inspirational teaching, spend time in God's presence, and be refreshed in your faith.
All Welcome

MAY 14th-15th 2022

TFW Church, Sandwich Drive, Macclesfield, SK10 2UD

Rebuilding HOPE amos trust

justice and hope for the forgotten

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who came to my fundraising quiz at Rumba the other Sunday evening. You helped me to raise £268 towards the Amos Trust Rebuilding Homes: Rebuilding Hope project that I am volunteering for from 19th April in Bethlehem.

You may recall I need to raise £1500 which goes direct to the project itself to support the family in their rebuilding project. I have already paid for my flights and accommodation etc.

Thank you also to those of you have donated funds towards this project outside of the quiz. If you would still like to donate there is still time. You can either give the donation to me or mum at church or visit my JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rebuilding-palestine>

If you would like to know more about the Amos Trust please click [here](#) or to understand more about

what I will be doing as a volunteer for the Amos Trust on this project, watch a short (4 mins) video [here](#) or click on the image below.



Please do hold this project in your prayers. There is a team of thirty people volunteering from the UK to support the rebuilding project working alongside a local team and the family itself. Pray that everyone stays safe and that everyone manages support the project in the best way they can.



Music@Mikes

The summer season begins on Thursday 28th April with a return visit by the talented organist and pianist Adam Parrish. His programmes are always very varied and entertaining; there will certainly be something for everyone. As usual, 1.15 - 2pm at St.Michael's; free entry and the Angel at my table cafe will be open before and after the concert for light refreshments and hot meals.



TAKING FLIGHT

Friday 15 April & Saturday 16 April
3-7pm

St Peter's Church, Windmill St, Macclesfield

TAKING FLIGHT is a multi-media art installation which creates a space in which to reflect upon the tragic situation in Ukraine.

It allows the viewer to show solidarity with the people of that region, whilst providing an opportunity to offer practical help by supporting a St Peter's community project which aims to provide Ukrainian families with local accommodation.

Artists Mike Thorpe, Rachel Ho and filmmaker, Terry Gibson, have collaborated to produce the installation, which centres around the themes of sanctuary and safety. Film projections, peace kites, ceramics and music combine to create a place for contemplation and action.

Reuse, Recycle



Remember these tables? They have gone from St Michael's and we have bought six new "Gopak" long tables with an oak-effect finish, and a trolley to keep them in. These will be more useful and attractive for meetings and training courses.

The old tables were very heavy and "buffet" height, which isn't great for a meeting. We advertised them on Freecycle and they have been accepted by the Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid collection point.

Thank you to Cre8 for moving them for us/them.

The next Foodie Friday...

Bookings are now being taken for the next Foodie Friday on **6th May**.

Come and enjoy a 3 course meal all prepared with surplus food.

There is no set price, you pay what you can afford/feel the meal is worth.

Bring a bottle if you wish and share good food with great company. Doors open at 6pm for the single sitting.

To book a place please either call the office or speak to Ali in the cafe.

These events rely on volunteers to run; if you can spare a couple of hours on Friday evening to help please see Ali in the cafe. In return for helping you will get a meal for free!



Foodie Fridays

On the First Friday in April, about 20 of us joined the Angel at my Table team for a fantastic meal – all made from food the supermarkets had given away. Here are Eve and David, Alan and Bernice looking expectant – and what they were expecting – full roast beef dinner with Yorkshire pudding – amazing! (the veggie chilli was great, too). Puddings included a chocolate feast, pineapple upside down cake... Well done and many thanks to Ali and the team of cooks, servers and washers-up.

Do join us for the next feast on the First Friday in May! Hurry or it may be fully booked....



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Platinum Jubilee Garden Party - 12 - 3 pm on Saturday 4th June

The Garden Party is due to take place in the churchyard.

There will be free food including a barbecue, games for the children, (probably a bouncy castle), entertainment, and an opportunity to meet our friends and neighbours in the town centre community.

Everyone is welcome! But we will need some people to help us run the event - Ali is organising the food; and we will need people to steward, to help Ali in the catering dept, and to help organise and run the games.

We will also need help advertising and distributing posters and flyers. Please tell David Mayers if you would like to help in any way - but most important put the date in your diary and come along!



Parking

Just a gentle reminder that the parking spaces outside church are for those on church business, whether they are church members, have hired rooms or are doing maintenance work in church. There are six spaces if everyone "parks prettily", ie close to the wall, post, or the next vehicle. Sometimes all those six spaces are needed so please be considerate. Please make sure that you display a yellow "permit" in your car and **return it when you leave**. These are just inside the welcome area on the table. This helps us to keep the parking under control. Office staff have recently spent a significant amount of time making sure that space will be available for a legitimate visitor expected later in the morning.



Me: Let me get a tattoo that shows that I'm a godly man and love to serve my church.

Tattoo artist: Say no more...



Could you become First Aid Trained?

The Town Council is offering places on a course on 21st May 9am-3pm and 23rd May 6-8pm with some online learning.

We would like more volunteers to come forward to take this invaluable qualification and take some of the strain off the small number of current 1st aiders at St.Michael's.

Please speak to Rachel or David Mayers for more information.



Welcome to our Church Family

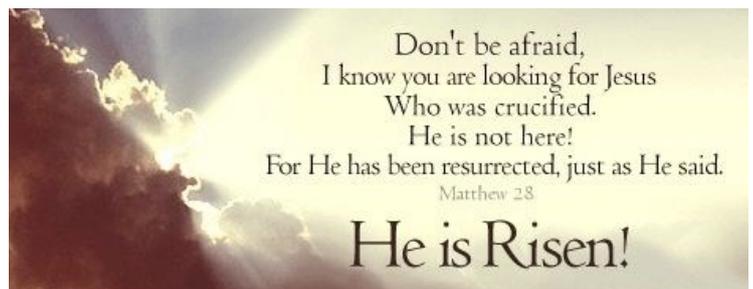


We were recently able to hold a beautiful baptism service for brothers Kolby and River. Kolby was excited by all the new sounds and objects that come

with exploring the church but his younger brother River was able to sleep his way through most of the service.

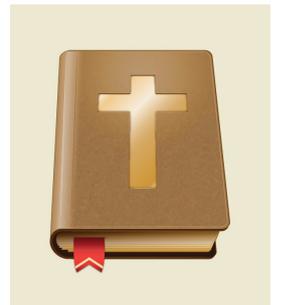
We hope to welcome the family, including mum and Dad Hope and Tom to our Church Family Worship more often going forward.

If you wish to discuss a baptism for your child, please contact Porsche in the church office to discuss this further.



Thank-you

My sincere thanks to all who gave donations of money last week for the purchase of Bibles and books of bible stories for Styal Prison, and to the person who donated two brand new modern translations of the Bible. Your generosity is, as always, remarkable.



I am liaising with Louise, the Chaplain, about exactly what she wants me to buy now she knows how much we have to spend. So far I have two copies of "The Message" bible, two copies of the NIV translation, and two copies of a Children's Bible with illustrations. I am now looking for some stand-alone books which have some of the parables and other events from Jesus' life in reader-friendly language.

There will be some money left over with which I will buy more of the A5 notebooks which the women very much value as journals in which they can write their thoughts, hopes and anxieties each day.

Thank you again.

Lynne

St. Michael and All Angel's Upcoming Services



24th April

Church Family Worship - 10:00am
2nd Sunday of Easter
Led by Lynne Spedding
Reading - John 20:19-31



1st May

Church Family Communion - 10:00am
3rd Sunday of Easter
Led by Revd Martin Stephens
Reading - John 21:1-19



8th May

Church Family Worship - 10:00am
4th Sunday of Easter
Led by Mike Strutt
Reading - Revelation 7:9-17



8th May

Choral Evensong - 8:30pm
4th Sunday of Easter
Led by Lynne Spedding



15th May

Church Family Communion - 10:00am
5th Sunday of Easter
Led by Revd Martin Stephens
Reading - Revelation 21:1-6



22nd May

Church Family Worship - 10:00am
6th Sunday of Easter
Led by Mike Strutt
Reading - Revelation 21:10,22-22:5



29th May

Church Family Worship - 10:00am
Worship Together (5th Sunday of the Month)
Led by Lynne Spedding
Reading - Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21



We look forward to
welcoming you to our
services throughout
April and May

Join us for

Worship



St Michael's Worship 17th April 2022

Easter Day

Church Family Holy Communion—10:00am
live in church / streamed on Youtube

Leader: Mike Strutt

Speaker: Mike Strutt

Reading: Luke 24.1-13

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://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVAzMVgQfoZ9qv0il7rlwEw>

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)

Where? The Rectory, Beech Lane, SK10 2DY

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

Thursday Morning Worship 10:30AM (35 minutes)

14th April —Midweek Morning Communion

21st March —Midweek Morning Prayer

(and then alternate thereafter...)

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

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.

the **prayer** course

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 Elaine 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.

Elaine's office hours are **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm.**

Please contact directly to make appointments out of hours.

Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday Evening

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.

Scan the QR Code to donate.



SCAN ME