

CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

APRIL/MAY 2018

FREE



Andy Williams is in the building page 3 & 16

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Welcome to Macclesfield Team Ministry

Macclesfield Team Ministry is a family of four churches that are located in the town of Macclesfield and are part of the Church of England. We are four different communities of people seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and trying to bring wholeness and healing to the wider town.



All Saints
Brough Street West
Macclesfield
SK11 8EL



St Barnabas
Lyme Avenue
Macclesfield
SK11 7RS



St Peter's
Windmill Street
Macclesfield
SK11 7HS



St Michael & All Angels
Market Place
Macclesfield
SK10 1DY

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everybody welcome

the course where
everybody helps grow
their church



Over 65 people attended one or more of the "Everybody Welcome" sessions held at St Michael's during Lent. Lively discussions, interesting ideas and lots of enthusiasm have contributed to how we can improve our welcome further. Over the four weeks we've looked at different aspects of welcome:

- Making the church more visible
- Making the church premises more inviting
- A welcoming God and his welcoming people
- Belonging to the church community

An important part of the preparation

was inviting 'mystery worshippers' to attend a Sunday service. They then completed a questionnaire and gave us their observations and feedback. Their comments have been a cause for celebrating what we do well and honest reflection about those things we could (and must) do better. We also each did our own assessment of how well we think St Michael's extends a welcome to new people. Several have remarked "the course has really made me think!". Challenging and encouraging each one of us on how we can become an even more welcoming church family, I'm hoping you'll notice a difference

when you next come to St Michael's. Regardless of whether you're a 'confident, social extrovert' or a 'shy, quiet introvert', there's a part for each of us to play in enabling our visitors to come and discover for themselves the welcoming heart of God. It's not just that, with God, everybody IS welcome but that our welcome will ultimately help grow our church.

How can we nurture and enable people to become 'fellow travellers and disciples' with us as we all journey and grow together in faith? The simple answer? **Everybody Welcome!**

Martin Stephens & Karen Brady

From Martin

Welcome to this edition of 'LINK', and an especial welcome to Andy and Louise. We had a good Licensing Service on 19th March to commence Andy's ministry with us, when (amongst other things) Bishop Libby said that being a vicar "wasn't even the best way to share the Good News [of Jesus and his Kingdom]!" How do you manage to be and share the Good News with others?

Through LINK we get a sense of the things which interest us 'Good News people' (read the articles about faith, welcome and fellowship, Fairtrade, etc). I trust that through our forthcoming Annual Meetings processes we will see and hear what our churches are interested in and are planning for the future. Do come along and play your part in being the vibrant family of God wherever you worship. (See p.7 for details of our various Annual

Meetings – I'll see you there!) And if you've an interest you think might spark with others, why not submit it to LINK (linkteammagazine@gmail.com) for a future edition?

Revd Martin Stephens,
Team Rector



Link

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Link. If you would like to submit news, an article or photos, please email linkteammagazine@gmail.com or hand in your contribution at the Team Office. The deadline for the June/July edition is Monday 14th May 2018. The views expressed in this edition of Link do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or the PCCs of the churches.

The Big Church Day Out



To book your ticket at a discounted rate negotiated through HOPE

Visit <http://bcdo.group/2018/hope-in-ne-cheshire>

Discounted price for the two days is £28 plus booking fee.

You may recall reading Judith Whittingham's feature in the last edition of LINK. Please can we encourage you to go this year. There is lots to do for everyone.

SPRING PLANT SALE

PERENNIALS
SHRUBS
HOUSE PLANTS
BEDDING PLANTS
GENERAL
GARDENING
ADVICE
SEED SWAP

Plenty of Tea,
Coffee & Cake
too!

All in support
of Cre8 Youth
& Community
Project on the
Moss Rose Estate



*Saturday
28th April
2018*

10am - 2pm

*Venue: The Cres
Community Building,
Mayfield Terrace,
Macclesfield
SK11 7TG*

www.cre8macclesfield.org

GROWERS & VOLUNTEERS

We're on the look out for Growers & Volunteers to help out at our Plant Sale...

If you've got SPARE PLANTS or would like to GROW THINGS to donate to the sale we'd love to hear from you! You can drop plants off on the Friday night before the sale or in the morning before the sale. If transport is a problem please let us know. SPARE SEEDS are also welcome... we'll be swapping/selling them (cos they always come in big packs... who needs a 100 pea plants!!!!)

And if you'd like to help on the day, we're looking for VOLUNTEERS to help sell plants, make cakes and help with brews.

SPRING PLANT SALE



Together, we can raise money to support our poorest brothers and sisters around the globe, pray for justice and witness at the heart of our communities.

Will you take part this year?

Church Annual Meetings

These will take place in the team churches as part of the morning services as follows:-

- St Peter's** 8th April 2018 at 9.30am
- St Michael's** 15th April 2018 at 10.30am
- All Saints 22nd April at 9.30am
- St Barnabas 29th April at 11.15am

Elections for officer roles like Churchwarden etc. will take place at these services. Voting is by church members who are on the electoral roll of that church.

Bollinbrook School News Update



We are pleased to announce that Lynne le Marinel has been appointed Headteacher at Bollinbrook School starting on 1st September 2018.

Current Headteacher, Mike Waters, retires at the end of this academic year after 14 years of service to the school having started at Easter 2004. When Mike started at the school three churches were involved in the school:

Church of the Resurrection, Upton Priory, St Peter's Prestbury and St Michael's. When the new parish boundaries were drawn up back in 2011, the structures were simplified and it was agreed that the relationship would be purely with St Michael's as the school would be situated in the newly extended parish of St Michael's.

Since then the relationship has strengthened more and more with a number of joint services, initiatives and events now regularly taking place both in the church and at school. **There will be a special service to mark Mike's retirement at 11am on Sunday 8th July.** More details to follow. Bollinbrook School Choir will be attending **St Michael's on 25th March at the Treacle Service at 10.30am** and their Easter Service takes place on Monday 26th March led by Mrs Billings and Year 5.



When you're in a dark place, you sometimes tend to think you've been buried.

Perhaps you've been planted.

Bloom.

Panama Visitor braves Snow and Ice



“Fairtrade Bananas transform lives!”

So said Marcial Quintero when he spoke to Macclesfield folk on Saturday morning.

Marcial, a banana farmer from Panama was visiting the UK for the first time on a whistle stop tour of North West England. He shared his story of the difficulties of making a living experienced by his community until a chance encounter with a Fairtrade activist in Costa Rica, together with support from the Coop in the UK, brought about a transformation through accessing Fairtrade.

Marcial, speaking through a volunteer translator, told us that Fairtrade gave his cooperative the freedom to escape exploitative business practices. He described how the Fairtrade Premium had brought so many changes since 2010 when they started trading

under Fairtrade conditions. The Fairtrade premium has meant new housing to replace existing overcrowded and insanitary housing, proper meals at lunchtime for workers and schoolchildren, grants for members’ children to pay for secondary and university education, money invested in improving productivity, as well as in protecting the local ecosystem and the endangered turtle population.

This was the first time Marcial had seen snow or experienced such a degree of cold but he was happy to put up with the Siberian conditions in order to share his story and his message to us to “Keep buying more Fairtrade bananas” so that the benefits his community has experienced can be shared more widely.

Schoolchildren from Ash Grove, Christ the King, Hurdsfield, Pott Shrigley, Prestbury, Puss Bank, and St Alban’s have been learning about Fairtrade and produced posters to make up a fantastic display in Macclesfield library. (On display until next Saturday). Many of them came on Saturday, along with local MP David Rutley, Cheshire East Deputy Mayor Lesley Smetham, and Macclesfield Town Mayor Beverley Dooley to meet Marcial and hear his story.

Macclesfield Fairtrade Town Group are calling on the local community to open their doors to Fairtrade and close the door on the exploitation facing the people who produce the things we love to eat, drink and wear.

“Choose Fairtrade when you next shop, and ask your local store to stock Fairtrade products - farmers deserve sustainable incomes.”



“We just lived in a small apartment, 10x10 with no privacy. We used to all live, cook and sleep in the same room.

Now we have everything inside one house, and privacy. There is a huge difference since we moved in to this house.”



St Peter's Away Weekend

About 50 members of St. Peter's, including a couple returning from university to be with us, enjoyed a church weekend away at Cloverley Hall near Whitchurch in early February.

The theme for the weekend was "Longing for Light", which we explored through times of prayer, a wide range of craft and reflective workshops, the Sunday Communion Service and generally being together.

On the Saturday afternoon some of us visited the local village church, whilst others went on a short walk.

We also made good use of the swimming pool, pool and table tennis tables. Later that day we had a ceilidh, which included dancing, musical items, stories and talks.

We appreciated the good weather, welcoming atmosphere and good food provided for us

over the weekend, and particularly the opportunity to enjoy fellowship together.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the weekend such a success.

John & Gill Phillipson





28th-31st March 2018
3-9pm

Townley Street Chapel
Macclesfield SK11 6HZ
(behind the United Reformed Church)

Private View:
Wed 28th March 6-9pm

Live music and poetry:
Friday 30th March 6-9pm

Holy Week

29th-31st March
St Barnabas Church

Twelve Stations
of the Cross

*Reflective space using
images from our neighbourhood*



You can visit the Twelve Stations on:

- ◆ Maundy Thursday 29th - 11am to 9pm
- ◆ Good Friday 30th - 7am to 9pm
There will be led prayers, music & liturgy between 7am and 8.30am
- ◆ Easter Eve 31st - 9am to 6pm

Bin there... done that



Photo by Sharon McCutcheon on Unsplash

Recycling

Exactly what can I put in my silver and green bins?

Many of us are confused about this, but still want to recycle as much of our waste as possible. So the St Michael's Eco-church group invited Lucinda Hodges, the Waste Education Officer from ANSA, to come and clarify the situation. ANSA is the company, owned by Cheshire East, which is now responsible for all the waste collection and disposal in Macclesfield, as well as maintaining our parks and sports fields and gritting our roads.

The answer is: more than many of us realised!

Silver Bins

- Paper and cardboard; virtually anything (including envelopes) except shredded paper (it bungs up the machinery – except in small amounts), books (which should be taken to book banks or charity shops) and glittery wrapping paper.
- Plastic; anything squashable, including all bottles and their tops, yoghurt pots rinsed but not necessarily perfectly clean, plastic bags and black plastic (unlike other areas). Ignore the symbols on the base, just put everything in unless it's hard or thin film or bubble-wrap. Not polystyrene or disposable nappies.
- Metals; virtually everything including aerosols (but not paint), drinks cartons (tetrapak etc) and tins with paper on. But not paint tins, puree tubes or scrap metal, these need to be taken to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre.
- Glass; but not windows, shelves, mirrors, drinking glasses, pyrex, lightbulbs, ornaments and vases. Remember to keep it loose! And don't flatten cans.

Green Bins

Green waste from the garden (grass-cuttings to branches); but not (yet! – but it's coming soon) food waste from the kitchen. This needs to go into your garden compost bin.

Not collected in silver or green bin

- Textiles
- Wood
- Hard plastics
- Food contaminated foil
- Shredded paper
- Medical waste
- Batteries – find a local collection point

Computers, cartridges, phones and electronic equipment – find a charity who will repair it; www.computersforcharities.org , www.cartridges4charity.co.uk , www.fonebank.com/wateraid , or take to the recycling centre

The biggest problems come from textiles, threads, tape getting jammed in the machinery and stuff made from combined materials such as crisp packets and toothpaste tubes. Disposable nappies take 200 years to break down in land-fill, but Cheshire East is sponsoring a new line of convenient but re-usable nappies.

Remember! It's even better to reduce and re-use before recycling.

Want to know more about this or other eco stuff? Come to the next Eco-church meeting at **St Michael's, Tuesday 1st May 7.30pm** in the narthex.

There is also another opportunity to hear Lucinda's talk **Thursday 19th April, 7:30 pm at St Peter's Church** The talk will go beyond just recycling from the kitchen and will include a Bathroom Quiz. There will be pictures and videos of the UPM recycling plant at Shotton so we can see what happens to all the stuff we put in our Silver Bin and of course there will be a chance to put your questions about recycling to Lucinda.

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Events & Notices

Music at Mike's

Next Concert
18th May 2018 at 1.15pm

A programme of concerts at St Michael's for your entertainment by King's School musicians. Free admission and light refreshments served.

Church or hall bookings

All Saints

Jim Donaldson 01625 619050
jacjim@ntlworld.com

St Barnabas

Jonathan Aiken 07515 410170
jonathanstewartaikem@gmail.com

St Michael's

Emma Kingdom: 01625 421984
stmichaelscoordinator@gmail.com

St Peter's

Mike Boardman: 01625 428646

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Our Church

Mums 'n' Tots Groups

WEDNESDAYS — 9.30am to 11.00am

St Peter's Church 'Take a Break'

Contact the Jenny Fox-Eades 07974 944585

WEDNESDAYS — 1.30pm to 3.00pm

All Saints Church '0-5 Club'

Contact Shirley Hill: 01625 426874

THURSDAYS — 10.00am to 11.30am

St Michael's Church

Contact Church Office: 01625 421984

FRIDAYS — 10.00am to 12.00pm

St Barnabas Church

Contact Cre8 Office: 01625 503740



We work together with the management of Macclesfield Town Centre and the Police to help people, whoever they are and whatever their situation, by listening, caring, offering practical help or referring them to specialist agencies.



Without our volunteers we cannot run this valuable service. We urgently need more volunteers for this role.

St Michael's is Open Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm. Call in for a look round or refreshments.

Sunday and Special Services

Date	All Saints Brough St. West	St Barnabas Lyme Ave.	St. Michael & All Angels In the Market Place	St Peter's Windmill St.
1st April Easter Day	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
8th April	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
15th April	9.30am Morning Prayer	10.30am Worship for All with APCM	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
22nd April	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 3.00pm St George's Day Service	9.30am Worship for All
29th April	5th Sunday	5th Sunday	10.30am Treacle All age service	5th Sunday
6th May	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
13th May	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
20th May Pentecost	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
27th May	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Treacle All age service	9.30am Holy Communion
3rd June	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion

For Holy Week services—see centre pages

Services in April & May

Hospital Services

St Luke's Chapel,

Macclesfield Hospital

Sunday 8th April - Fran Hiles

Sunday 29th April - Robert
Marshall

Sunday 13th May - Fran Hiles

11.00am

*Have you ever thought about helping
support patients who come to worship?
Can you help out on a weekly or more
occasional basis?*

For more information please contact
Vicky & Gordon Darlington
01625 428215



Messy Church

4.00pm - 6.00pm

All Saints Church

Saturday 7th April

Saturday 5th May

*It's a once a month time of creativity,
worship and eating together for families
for whom traditional Sunday Services
don't work.*

Midweek Communion

Thursdays

10.30am

St Michael's Church

Healing Service

St Michael's Church

**Service of Prayer for Healing &
Wholeness 12.30pm**

6th April & 4th May

*This service will last about half an hour
and all are welcome. It contains
intercessions for those who are sick or
grieving and there will be an
opportunity for those who wish to
receive prayer with laying on of hands.*

Step by Step

No, this is not an article about a walking holiday, although, it could be...

It's not an article about new shoes, although it could be...

It's an article about moving on in faith, some might say 'blind faith'.

Faith to me is something like dancing to the music before you can hear it. We do this with many things in life... we can plan ahead and try to work out every step but with the best will in the world we can't ever know everything that may come our way. So, we just have to get on and meet each day as it comes.

Stepping out in faith can be a scary way of life if you have no one to share it with, and even if you do have other human beings to walk with you along the way there will be times when they let you down or are absent through no fault of their own. For me, as a Christian, though, I have a 'friend who sticks closer than a brother' (Proverbs 18.24) and that friend is called Jesus.

He has called me his friend so I'm not being presumptuous here! 'No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.' (John 15.15)

It may seem strange to suggest that Jesus is my friend as if I have a relationship with the living God! I know! But it's true, I do have a relationship with the living God!

Also, to my utter amazement, I have a relationship with the people of Rwanda and some wonderful things have happened in the last seven years. Things that I could never have dreamt of; hungry children being fed; a nursery school and Children's Centre built; the introduction of bio-

composting latrines leading to improvements in crop production and the latest development is that we're on the path to sustainability through income generation and tourism! Sometimes I sit back in awe when I realise what has happened and how God has used a small woman like me. People say to me sometimes 'Tricia, you are amazing, look what you've done.' Well I can tell you no one is more amazed than me! It is God the Holy Spirit, Helper, Comforter, Sustainer who has done this along with the great blessing of working with other human beings of good will.

When I set out on this journey in 2011 I had no idea what was going to happen. My faith was at a very low ebb. I was totally disillusioned with 'religion' and church. But I've discovered that there's a great deal of difference between religion and faith. Sometimes the two things are mutually supportive, but not always. When I arrived in Rwanda and saw the faith of people who had suffered greatly and who were desperately poor I literally wept and rejoiced at the same time. I was moved beyond words at the joy they expressed in their lives. Every morning they say 'Mwaramutse' and the answer is often 'Yego' which means yes. So, although they are saying 'Good Morning' they actually mean 'did you survive the night?' This indicates how tenuous their hold on life has been. They rejoice every morning that they are still alive.

I will be talking more about the Village Rwanda Project at St Michael's Church on **Sunday April 8th after the 11am Morning Service** and it would be great to meet you

there. However, this article is about walking step by step in faith, often nor knowing what will happen next. Other ways of expressing this are

'just keep putting one foot in front of the other'

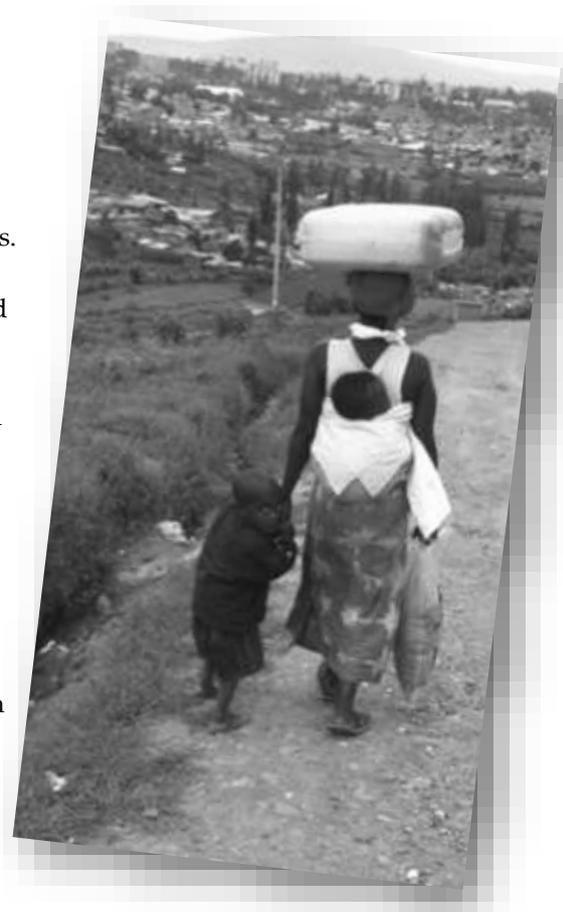
'keep plodding on'

'keep peggin' away lad'

or in Kinyarwanda, the language of Rwanda, 'Bohoro, Bohoro' Slowly slowly, step by tiny step.

God bless you on your journey,

Tricia Atherton



Come to an evening of
Christian Art
at The Hope Centre

14-16 Park Green, Macclesfield, SK11 7NA.

Hear **Catherine Stephens**
 share her journey of faith
 through painting.

Evening includes a light buffet.



7.30_{pm} Saturday
 28th April



Tickets £10, from
 The Hope Centre
 (01625 404 384) and
 Catherine Stephens
 (01625 426 110)

Revd Karen
 Brady



keep the date free

Karen will be priested at
 Chester Cathedral on

Saturday 2nd June
 at 5.00pm



Our new Clergy Team

Revd Andy Williams was licensed as Team Vicar to Macclesfield Team Ministry by Bishop Libby Lane at a service on Monday 19th March. Andy is licensed to the Team but will have special responsibility for All Saints and St Barnabas churches. We welcome Andy and his wife Louise to the Team and look forward to getting to know each other better and sharing the Gospel together. Pictured here are our new clergy team of Rob, Andy, Martin and Karen. What a motley crew I have to whip into shape!

Sue Reid—Clergy PA

PS: Karen and Rob didn't get the blue shirt memo!