

CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

FREE



Thank you Gillian Rushton [page 4](#)
Climate Change Petition [page 8](#)
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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
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Lay Conference

Chris Campbell-Kelly and Anna Cerval-Pena, both from All Saints Church, were at the Diocese of Chester Lay Conference in May this year. It was held at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. They describe their experience below.

The focus of the conference was "Mission impossible" and we certainly came away from the weekend believing mission is more possible, and energised to take what we have learnt back to our parish.

Among the fantastic speakers was Rachel Jordan-Wolf, the National Mission and Evangelism Adviser for the Church of England.

She spoke about some really positive research, which can be found at www.talkingjesus.org.

The main point was that non-Christians have a more positive view of Jesus, Christianity and Christians than most of us think, and that should give us more courage to talk about our faith with our friends, family and work colleagues.

Joelle Warren, who serves as a member of the Lay Leadership Task Force which produced the report "Setting God's people

free" (www.churchofengland.org/renewal-reform).

She talked passionately about our 'Monday-to-Saturday' ministry, and how our Sunday worship should equip lay people to worship in our regular lives and to be a blessing on our frontlines - the times when we interact with non-Christians and the places we can promote/model Jesus values in the workplace or the 'real world'.

Each parish had been asked to produce a poster, before the conference, highlighting an area of mission their church is engaged in.



This was really encouraging, as we could all see just how much mission is being done in our area and though many are small, simple ideas, together we are touching a lot of people's lives for the better.

We were also able to learn from each other, borrow ideas, connect similar groups and share resources.

The action planning session was also a fantastic idea.

...including getting your shoes shined by a bishop...

We were each asked to write three things we want to do because of what we learnt over

the weekend, and to keep us accountable the list will be sent to us in six months time.

Just having the time while we were still there to think practically about what we actually want to do, and distil it into three action points made it all feel doable, and sending it to us later is a little nudge to keep us on the right track.

As well as all the talk about mission there were also worship sessions - some very early in the morning!!

Each session was in a very different style; we had "modern", Taize, Cafe Church, Iona and a tradition Eucharist lead by Bishop Libby.

Each had aspects that we were all used to and aspects that were different.

Each was simple and planned in a format that could be easily taken back to our parish churches to try again.

The informal parts of the conference were just as important as the large sessions.

The entertainment on the Saturday night by Paul Kerensa was very, very funny, and the small "mission possibilities" that were dotted around the weekend, including getting your shoes shined by a bishop, and a selfie booth were great.

Networking in the bar, getting to know each other better went on to late into the night and we hope has been the beginning of some lasting friendships.

More information can be found by signing up to the diocesan fortnightly ebulletin by emailing emma.hathaway@chester.anglican.org



A thirst for walking

There have been a series of Summer Walks which took place on Monday evenings in June and July.

There is another at the start of September. The evenings end in a local pub.

Walks have included: Macc Forest , Higher Poynton, Lyme Park, the canal in Kerridge and Bollington, North Rode, the River Dane and Bosley Cloud. (pictured below).

Walks are advertised through the weekly notice sheet - Dogs welcome!



A Double Celebration at St. Peter's



On June 11th we enjoyed a double celebration at St. Peter's.

We were thanking Gillian Rushton for her long and committed service to Take-a-Break for a period of over 30 years. (*see cover photo*).

We were also thanking Ruth Mock for her contribution to the life of our church over the last 16 years. In addition we were wishing her well for the future as she prepared for ordination as a deacon on July 2nd and started her work as curate in Stretton and Appleton Thorn.

We held a Thanksgiving Service, at which Ruth preached. During the service we presented Gillian with an engraved vase and a cartoon by Taffy; Ruth received a cheque from us, which she used to buy a stole.

After the service we enjoyed our usual breakfast followed by a BBQ in our Community Gardens area.

Many thanks to Jenny for leading the service and Ali for organising the BBQ and her magnificent cake!

It was a wonderful way to thank Gillian and Ruth for their faithful service over many years and a great occasion, which we'll remember for a long time.

John Phillipson

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 Oct/Nov edition is Monday 18th September 2017. The views expressed in this edition of Link do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or the PCCs of the churches.

Karen is in the building...

What three words best describe you?

Probably "Friendly, thoughtful and faithful".

Which people in your life are the most important to you?

I don't get to see my family very much, so a handful of very close friends have become my 'extended' church family.

What is your favourite TV programme?

At the moment, it's programmes like "Supervet" or "Dog Rescuers". It's uplifting to see how the right medical attention or simple tender loving care can transform the lives of poorly or neglected pets and (in turn) how they transform the lives of their owners.

What is the best thing about the church you belong to?

Thinking of my previous church, the fellowship and nurturing I've received has helped me to grow into the Christian I am today. I've only been here in Macclesfield a few weeks now, but I can

see the same kind of fellowship and nurturing here too.

Who has most inspired you in your life?

Without doubt it's my mother who was born deaf (so was my father). But despite the many prejudices, language barriers and obstacles she encountered throughout her life, her faith was simple but unshakeable.

What book or film did you see/read recently that you enjoyed?

The most recent was the "The Shack", it made me cry tears of sadness and joy in the same film. (In complete contrast, I'm tempted to go see "Despicable Me 3").

Tell us one thing about yourself that many people would not know?

I don't like cheese! (Yes I know it's very strange, but I've gotten used to the surprised looks on people's faces when I tell them).

If you could invite anyone for tea (living or dead), who would it be?

I'd invite two people – Victoria Wood and Julie Walters. Lots of fun and laughter would be guaranteed.

What is your favourite hymn or song and why?

If I have to choose just one hymn, it would be "Brother, sister, let me serve you". The melody is so gentle yet the message so profound.

What do you do, or where do you go to unwind?

I put my feet up with a cup of tea and a Curly Wurly.

What is your prayer for the world?

That all God's children will experience and exemplify God's love "in abundance".

Karen has just joined our Macclesfield Team Ministry at the 'new' curate.



Karen Brady stands alongside Martin Stephens at Chester Cathedral, just after the ordination service

Sole comfort...

On Pentecost Sunday, at least 25 people, two who were from the Team, walked from Foxhill, the Diocesan retreat and conference centre to Chester Cathedral approx 14 miles. [On booking on to this walk they said it was about 10 miles, they lied!] We met at Foxhill for bacon butties, very welcome, as we watched the rain fall down, not a good start, but after a time of worship in the chapel led by the Josh Walker band, [keep

an eye out for this worship group] we set off in beautiful sunshine. Being Cheshire born and bred I was amazed walking through places I had never heard of, but very beautiful.

We stopped part way round for a picnic lunch along with a couple of other comfort and prayer stops, one with the most wonderful ginger biscuits ever. We arrived at the Cathedral just after five, and at five fortyfive processed into the

Cathedral with boxes of prayers from around the Diocese, as part of Thy Kingdom Come Celebration. The service was wonderful, we had a group of young people dancing in the aisles, a very funny and skilful magician, and the worship led by Stuart Townsend. It was a great day, even if the body ached all the following week, and the little toes still bear the scars.

Fran & Peter Hiles



St Cuthbert's Way

Between Friday 15th and Friday 22nd September 2017 a group of 'pilgrims' (mostly from the Macclesfield Team Ministry) are walking the St Cuthbert's Way - from Melrose to Lindisfarne. The group is being led by David Wightman, Paul Simms and Taffy Davies.

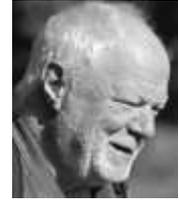
The 'expedition' is almost fully booked - by there is space for two more walkers.

Full details are available at www.stcuthbertsway.weebly.com

The walking is not strenuous and the way passes through some glorious border countryside. The approximate cost is £250-£275 per person, all inc. Please contact Taffy Davies 01260 253671 or 07917 666 350 taffy@parishpump.co.uk for further details.



Sacred pathways - special times



In June four members of St Michael's Church attended a CPAS workshop on "Leading a Praying Church". The first session 'Leading Oneself in Prayer' struck all of us as having a great deal of relevance to our desire at St Michael's to becoming a praying church. After all; how can we be a praying church if, as individuals, we do not have a rich and rewarding prayer life?

The idea that resonated most with us was that we all have different preferred ways to engage with God in prayer. We are not identical, our life experiences are unique and yet too often the church expects us to engage in identical ways in prayer. This is sometimes difficult when praying as part of public worship but there is no excuse for not developing a special prayer life which relates itself to our individual personalities. A prayer time which is 'special' to us?

The workshop identified nine 'sacred pathways' to prayer based on the book by Gary Thomas. So what is a sacred pathway? Thomas describes it as "the way we relate to God, how we draw near to him". We may have more than one sacred pathway but most of us will have a certain predisposition for relating to God – in a sense our dominant spiritual temperament.

I do not have space here to introduce or list each of the pathways. Instead, as a taster I will introduce my favourite and least favourite pathway. But remember – we are all different, there is no absolute right or wrong.

My favourite pathway – loving God out of doors. We favour leaving any building, however inspiring, to pray to God, for example, beside a river or up a mountain or by the sea. We pray as we walk through woods, mountains or meadows. We believe that nature proclaims "God is" and shows his majesty. We often feel closer to God from watching insects, birds and marvelling at their creator than sitting reading a book – however worthy - or listening to a sermon. We learn to seek God by surrounding themselves with all he has made.

My least favourite of the nine pathways – traditionalists: loving God through ritual and symbol. I must re-emphasise that this is my personal view. It might be thought strange for an Anglican priest so to feel, but traditionalists have a deep love of rituals and symbols. They tend to live disciplined lives and often very faithful lives. They enjoy regular attendance at church, set liturgies, orderly services and so on.

Traditionalists have a need for ritual and structure. The contemplatives silence in prayer – the 'prayer of the quiet' would be confusing and unfulfilling to them.

I cannot over-emphasise that we are all different. It is perfectly possible – even likely – that the above two pathways will be some people's top two. If you would like to explore the nine 'sacred pathways' further I am proposing to hold three workshops before Advent when we can learn more about the different pathways and try to identify those which resonate with us most as individuals. Then we can use these to help develop richer special times of prayer.

More details about these will be in the next Link.

David Wightman



2000 year old olive tree in the Garden of Gethsemane - a special place to pray

Business that is good for us?



Is it possible for something other than the pursuit of private gain to be the force which powers business?

It's the way most businesses are driven in the UK and beyond, yet it poses probably the biggest challenge to the future of the planet. Is the pursuit of private gain the only basis for successful and sustainable business, or is there some other fuel that could power the engine of enterprise?

This will be one of the important subjects for discussion at Greenbelt this year. Greenbelt is an arts, faith and justice festival which runs across the August Bank Holiday weekend (25th – 28th August), and its theme this year is “the Common Good”. Three businesses, which all strive to carry on business for a wider social purpose, have come together to create a new Greenbelt venue called the Exchange, which will host discussions, interviews, workshops and

networking events around the subject of Enterprise for the Common Good.

Co-operatives are one type of business which exist for a wider social purpose. Founded by people in communities which lack the means to meet their basic needs, they are a way for people to work together to address their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Social enterprises are another type of business whose founders set out to carry on business providing goods and services, and creating jobs, but where the ultimate purpose is a broader social objective, rather than trying to make as much money as possible for the owners.

Other businesses strive to be “values-driven”, which means setting out a set of values or principles by which they aim to operate, and honestly and transparently reporting on progress.

None of this is easy. Any form of business is really hard work, and trying to do so in a fairer and more just way, seeking to avoid oppression, exploitation and harm, is an enormous challenge, especially when competing against other businesses who simply don't care about any of these things.

But that's why we all have a responsibility to think carefully about where we spend our money, and whether we can do more to support enterprise for the common good, for the benefit of all.

Come and join the discussion at the Exchange at Greenbelt.

Cliff Mills

Carry on camping

The 9.30 service enjoying yet another fabulous camping weekend. This year we tried a new campsite at Hulme End near Hartington. We had our own field which was great, especially for the children and Chip, the dog!

We had a total of 12 families camping this year. Martin and Catherine joined us on Friday night and helped pitch many a tent. Karen joined us on Saturday afternoon for the barbecue and pitched straight in with salad preparation and chatting to families to get to know them. The weather was slightly warmer (especially at night!) than we're used to but we also had rain late Friday evening and Saturday morning but we are hardy bunch now and are completely used to this!

A number of families went into Hartington on Saturday morning and we enjoyed a leisurely walk along the Manifold Saturday afternoon. There were a number of games of cricket and Frisbee throughout the weekend. Saturday evening we had our big barbecue together followed by a competitive quiz – the boys won, even with Russell falling asleep during it! Simon Egerton impressed us with his Star Wars knowledge - he knew the name of the pub where Luke Skywalker first met Han Solo (Mos Eisley Cantina)! Jo Holden impressed the girls with her knowledge on the opening song lyric round!

For the first time the teens put together their own team and put in a good effort. Extra 'comedy' points were awarded for

some of their answers – Q: what's the art of cutting shrubs into ornamental shapes called? A: OCD or midlife crisis! We woke up to sunshine on Sunday and had our service at 11am with a reading, discussion and prayers.

In particular, we prayed for our five children (Abigail, Luke, Thomas, Marek and Nathan) moving up to High School in September and Katy moving into sixth form and getting her GCSE results in August and all the change that ensues from those moves.

Sue Reid



Supporting Cre8 through Prayer

We are always incredibly grateful for the many different ways people support Cre8. If you'd like to support our work through prayer, below are some prayer points to assist.

- For the young people, facing the uncertainties of adolescence. For a sense of security for them, having someone to hold them, guide them, protect them, give to them, laugh with them and appreciate them.

- For adults in our community, for understanding, acceptance, peacefulness, working together and not for ourselves. An end to hatred, violence, bullying. Forgiveness. For work, a sense of worth fullness, contribution, value, fairness.

For our supporters, giving thanks for them, those who think about us, pray for us, give to us, are gracious to us, make space for us and challenge us.

Rob Wardle

Notice board

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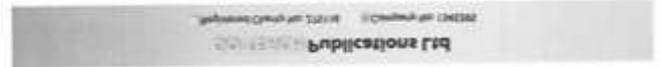
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Cricket

Enthusiastic and, in a few cases, highly skilled cricketers from All Saints, St.Peter's and St.Michael's have represented the Team Parish cricket eleven in 4 matches so far this season, with more to look forward to. All games have been closely fought and very enjoyable, with much banter on the field and in the bar afterwards. For the record, there have been 2 wins (both against Stockport Teachers) and 2

defeats (to Macclesfield Cricket Club Dads and Lads and Macc Occasionals). Unfortunately, the game against local friends and rivals Tytherington Family Worship was rained off, but we look forward to playing Audacious Church and St George's Church, Leeds, next week.

We play 20-20 cricket, everyone bowls and most players get a bat; it's very entertaining and sociable, and we welcome players of all abilities and ages as well as spectators and umpires. Special thanks must go to our umpires,

Brian Gleaves, Ron Sherwin, and David Wightman; and to our friends at Kerridge CC for making us so welcome. Do come and watch, you won't be bored, and Kerridge is a delightful place to sit on a summer's evening. Contact David Mayers (0796 380 2659 – davidjmayers@btinternet.com) for further details.

David Mayers



Fixtures for August:

Sunday 6th Ash Tree Away at Macclesfield or Prestbury 2pm

Wednesday 9th Macc Occasionals Kerridge CC 6pm

Wednesday 16th Barclay's Over Peover CC 6pm

To be confirmed...

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th November at St Michael's, the Bishop of Stockport will confirm members from the churches of Macclesfield Team Ministry (All Saints, St Barnabas, St Michael's and St Peter's churches). Everyone is welcome to come along and support the candidates, to share their first Holy Communion, to hear the Bishop preach and enjoy the refreshments afterwards.

What is confirmation? There is no one simple answer. Below are five aspects of confirmation that will resonate with those who will be confirmed:

Affirming Faith

For some confirmation is the next step on the journey of faith. Baptised as a child growing up within the family of the church, confirmation provides that moment to affirm publicly their Christian faith.

Renewing Commitment

The faith journey can be a bumpy ride. Early church life may be overridden by football and friends; university and

career time pressures can also squeeze out faith. What makes us reconsider? Often a new church, or the birth of the first child, or an exploration of one sort or another may lead us to make a recommitment to the Christian faith. Confirmation is the expression of that commitment.

Accompanying Adult Baptism

Spiritual promises are not taken lightly and the invitation to be a god-parent, or their own child's baptism, invites the question, "Should I be baptised?" For adults, baptism and confirmation involve the same promises and are of necessity linked, consequently the decision to be baptised is a decision to be confirmed too.

Joining the Church of England

It is wonderful when Christians move to town and make one of our churches their spiritual home. Confirmation for those from other denominations and traditions is about joining, not just the local Anglican church, but the Church of England.

Admission to Holy Communion

At the heart of Christian worship is Holy Communion – Jesus commanded us to do this in remembrance of him. Holy Communion nourishes us and strengthens us in our faith. It reminds us of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice. It is through confirmation that we come to Holy Communion.

On a typical Sunday there are many members of our congregations who are not confirmed. If you are one of them, then I would encourage you to ask God in your prayers if confirmation should be your next step on your journey of faith?

If, as an adult or young person, you would like to be confirmed, then please talk to one of the clergy as soon as you can.

Martin Stephens

Climate Change petition

On 7th July at St Michaels a petition signed by 824 members of various Macclesfield churches was presented to David Rutley MP.

The event was part of the Climate Coalition Week of Action in which all the constituencies of the UK were invited to meet their MPs to impress on them the urgency of the issue of climate change. The Climate Coalition is a grouping of some 100 organisations, some faith-based others not, concerned with a large variety of issues including world development, preservation of nature and more generally the common good.

The Macclesfield petition was supported by HOPE in NE Cheshire .

Under the broad heading of a request to the Prime Minister to give due priority to climate change, the petition calls for coordination between government

departments in the production of emissions reduction plans which are required under UK legislation. Specifically, emphasis is asked for on local community energy sources, energy saving in homes, and the solution to the air pollution problems created by fossil fuels in vehicles.

Organiser Keith Taylor highlighted concerns that, as an issue, climate change needs to receive urgent attention even in an environment where government has many conflicting tasks to address. Brexit should not push climate change aside.

According to all the major scientific institutions in the world, temperature change continues inexorably. Keith drew attention to the prediction that without drastic reductions in our emissions of greenhouse gases we are just 30 years away from catastrophic sea rises which would see New York and other major cities submerged.

As an illustration of the likely impact of

climate change in the UK Keith also presented Mr Rutley with a picture from a presentation given earlier this year by local scientist Dr Colin Fenwick which showed the Houses of Parliament with the Thames lapping well into its lower storeys.

Mr Rutley undertook to present the petition to Parliament and encouraged everyone to keep him informed of concerns about the environment. The petition was supported by the St.Michael's Eco-church group.

Our next meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 12th September at the Park Tavern on Park Lane. All are welcome to attend, or contact David Mayers (0796 380 2659 davidjmayers@btinternet.com) for more information.

David Mayers

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Events & Notices

Music at Mike's

Next concert
Friday 29th September
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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
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- Health and disability conditions
- Resolving issues, making choices and accessing services

Telephone: 01260 288353

(24 hour answer service)

E-mail: iace@infoadvicece.org.uk

Website: www.advicece.org.uk



iace is a partnership of information and advice providers led by Citizens Advice Cheshire East in partnership with Cheshire East Borough Council. Registered Charity Number: 1128498

Citizens Advice Cheshire North can also provide information and support to help clients save money by switching their gas and electricity suppliers. Please call on 01625 432847 for further information or to make an appointment.

Our Church Toddler Groups

WEDNESDAYS — 9.30am to 11.00am

St Peter's Church 'Take a Break'

Contact the Team Offic 01625 421984

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 Ruth Parker: 01625 613068

FRIDAYS — 10.00am to 12.00pm

St Barnabas Church Play Group 0-4 years

Contact Jonny Aiken: 07515 410170



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. If you are interested to know more, please speak to David Wightman on 07770 785188.

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

Sunday Services - August & September

Sundays	All Saints Brough St. West	St Barnabas Lyme Ave.	St. Michael & All Angels In the Market Place	St Peter's Windmill St.
6th August	9.30am Informal Service	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
13th August	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer
20th August	9.30am Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
27th August	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Service	9.30am Worship for All
3rd Sept	9.30am Informal Service	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
10th Sept	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
17th Sept	9.30am Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
24th Sept	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Joint Harvest Service	9.30am Worship for All
1st Oct	9.30am Informal Service	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion

Services in August & September

Hospital Services

**St Luke's Chapel,
Macclesfield Hospital**

Sunday 13th August

Revd Barry Langman

Sunday 10th September

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 9th September

Saturday 7th October

Saturday 4th November

Saturday 2nd December

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**

Fri 4th August

Fri 7th September

12.30pm

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.

Just Drop In - award winning!

It is a great delight to announce that Just Drop-In have been honoured with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

This is a local charity which some of the Team Ministry 'away giving' helps support.

At Just Drop-In at least 65 people of all ages and backgrounds give their time providing information,

support, counselling services and training in life-skills to children and young people aged 12-25 years.

Working with a small staff team, volunteers dedicated 4,600 hours last year helping young people - the majority of whom are disadvantaged - to 'find their feet'.



Chair of Trustees, John Stephens (left), Chief Officer, Ann Wright (centre), Just Drop-In Patron and Macclesfield MP, David Rutley (right).



Just Drop-In Volunteer Co-ordinator Faye Ronan (left) and long term volunteer Anna Wainwright (right) at Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace earlier this month.