

# ST MIKE'S NEWS

ISSUE 16 5 JULY 2020

A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19

Church Together Apart



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Open Door

## Reflection from Martin



So, as of today, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, we are actively planning for public worship to recommence in the church building from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. We'll give more information about this elsewhere and next week.

However be assured that we are seeking to 'merge' our worship to be both online and offline. This is so we both include as many people as possible but also to retain the best of what you've told me you've appreciated about our Sunday worship (in particular, the Storytelling and the breakout rooms). By uploading the recorded service others can join in as they can later in the day or during the week.

I remember our earliest attempts at providing resources for people to continue to worship, whether that be the printed Orders of Service and list of Sunday readings or the experience of online worship. There we developed from **streaming** one service on **Facebook** to **prerecording** and **uploading** services (initially to **Vimeo**, then to **YouTube**), before using **Zoom** so we could worship together live and interact with one another.

Such a lot of learning. Such a lot of progress. And, thank you everyone, such a lot of patience, grace and appreciation as things have changed and .. yes .. sometimes stumbled. What we recognise is that our **desire to worship** is more important than the *need for perfection*. I'm grateful to you all for this attitude, and trust it will continue in abundance into the next phases until the 'new normal' evolves long-term.

An **early** memory for me (in both senses) is of our Easter Day worship. Part of that pre-recorded service, **early** in lockdown, was taken **very early** in the morning – mirroring the time the women approached Jesus' tomb.

During that service I used images from our garden to depict the beauty, joy and majesty of God's creation. We recognise the blessings we have in Christ. But there were also images of brambles and weeds - rubbish even - to represent that in life we can get overwhelmed and dragged down by sin.

This week, seeing a surprise crop of raspberries amidst the overgrown scrub of next door, I wondered how much our lives have continued to bear fruit, even when choked in the harshness of lockdown.

I'm delighted to see people joining in with opportunities to talk about faith (eg. fortnightly **Women with Cake & Men's Meet-up Meetings**, or the weekly **Coffee & Chat**) but I'm also aware of how difficult it's been for others to nurture their faith during the pandemic. How have they fared who haven't been able to connect online, or have the energy or time for joining with others? What will Christian faith be like for them at the moment.

My hope, my longing, my prayer, is that they might somehow also have flourished, just like that raspberry crop – fruitful, abundant, and a wonderful surprise! Please God!

God bless you

Martin

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

# zoom into CHURCH

## St Michael's at Home LIVE 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

11.00am for 11.15am Click red arrow or image to join



Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 999 6611 2203 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Martin

Talk: Lynne

Reading: **Song of Solomon 2:8-13,  
Matthew 11:28-30**

You will have the opportunity to talk to a smaller group in a break out room at the end of the service.

**Can't join us live?** Watch the recording at a time to suit you after 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: 999 6611 2203]**

When prompted, enter #

## This week's lectionary readings:-

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13

## Resources for adults:

[www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome5jul](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome5jul)

## Resources for families:

[www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome5jul](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome5jul)

These links may not work—some resources are also sent out either electronically or as paper copies, with this newsletter



## Wednesday Morning Discussion

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 911 712 4669

Password: Vruk116200



*Coffee & Chat*



Hosted by Tricia & Martin

Save these details for next week

## Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate Wednesday evenings

Dates: 8th & 22nd July

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)



Meeting ID: 912 6715 2374

Password: 980944

*Particularly aimed at those of working age (whether on furlough, unemployed or working flat-out). Nothing heavy – at least not at this stage – but just the opportunity to share life and faith with others in a similar situation.*

Save these details for next time

Email any [prayer requests](#) here:



**July Prayer Letter now out**

## Thursday Homegroup

Can't meet in person? No problem—we meet via Zoom (including by phone) on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

We are continuing with our study of Luke's Gospel. Anyone is welcome to join us for study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone. For details, including the Zoom link, please contact David Mayers by email or by phone 01625 420716

# Looking to the future hopefully

A number of us were inspired by the Radio 4 morning service last Sunday, led by Rev. John Bell of the Iona Community. This is part of his reflection. The full service (and the text) is available on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000kfwv>



We are told – though I am not sure that we have fully taken it in – that there is no immediate recovery from the pandemic. The virus will be around for a while, as will the consequences of economic meltdown. If we are going to recover, are we aiming to go back to the old 'normal' whose defects we were thinking about earlier?

Because if we are not, we need to envisage a world which is in some ways radically different. We will have to use that faculty which was in the prophets and glorious in Jesus, namely our imagination, not to escape from reality, but to re-shape reality.

So I want to ponder some alternatives in the light of what God has revealed in Scripture, and particularly through Jesus.

If we believe, as Jesus says, 'you shall 'know the truth and the truth will set you free'

....do we want children in the future to be as ignorant of the past as many or most of us adults have been? I mean, I had to wait until I was fifty to discover that Scotland had owned a third of the slave plantations in Jamaica, and that the Victorian opulence of Glasgow and other British cities was the result of the trans-Atlantic transport of enslaved Africans, tacitly condoned by Christian churches. Do we have to wait for statues to be toppled before we own our past?

If we believe that Jesus declared there is good news for the poor,

... and if we know that poverty has grown in our nation, and that people living in poor neighbourhoods are far more likely to die from Covid 19 than the wealthy, are we prepared to identify the root causes, and to treat those who are economically disadvantaged with dignity in the future? Or do we have to pray for another sporting personality or stage celebrity to name an injustice before it is rectified?

If we believe that God loves the world,

...and we know that in the world God loves everything from the Australian coral reef to the Amazon rain forest to the Arctic

Pole and even the humble bumble bee are all threatened by human failure to respect the integrity of creation, are we going to continue living so irresponsibly that the children of tomorrow will have to go to museums to see what we regard as commonplace today?

If we believe that Jesus has mandated his disciples to heal the sick,

... are we going to live in the expectation that huge pharmaceutical companies and better medical technology will come up with the solutions? Or should we at least consider personal responsibility and preventative rather than responsive medicine?

If we believe that Jesus cares that prisoners be released,

... and we know that the causes of crime are very often rooted in childhood trauma or deprivation, are we just going to build more prisons, or look at what can be done to prevent vulnerable people becoming potential offenders?

And if we believe from the evidence of the gospels, that Jesus spent a hundred times more of his life on issues of healing, teaching, evangelism, engaging face to face with people, than he ever did on bricks and mortar, are we going to go to shape the future of the church according to his priorities or remain obsessed by the upkeep of buildings and structures some of which have long been obsolete?

People of faith should be keen to re-imagine the future. That is what Jesus did in most parables.

He turns the prevailing common-sense on its head by surreal stories about people who work an hour being as valued as those who work a day; about a reprobate who has squandered half the family fortune returning home to the warmest of embraces; about people who live hand to mouth being the principal guests at the most splendid of feasts.

We can but imagine...

- that one day sculptors will erect statues not of white male military generals but of black women who lovingly change the diapers of the diseased
- one day television companies will stop producing reality shows which delight in dysfunction, and instead celebrate what the potentials of marginalised people can do
- one day the natural world will cease to be the victim of neglect and become the beneficiary of human kindness.
- one day the Christian Church will supplement its creeds from the distant past with commitments to enflesh God's dreams for tomorrow.
- one day someone will write a song which begins not 'And did these feet in ancient times...' but "And will these feet in future years ?"      **John Bell 28th June 2020**

## Swifts over St Michael's?

Have you seen any swifts this year? In the last 20 years UK Swift breeding numbers have decreased a staggering 50%. Loss of nest sites is believed to be at least partly responsible. These incredible migrant birds return from their wintering grounds in Africa to the same spot each year to breed, usually in buildings, for just three months of the year. Access to safe nesting sites is key for such a brief breeding window. Many of the traditional swift nesting sites – eaves or gaps in old buildings - have disappeared.

Last year the St.Michael's eco-church group teamed up with our bell-ringers and the local RSPB group to install a swift nestbox, divided into individual nesting chambers, inside one of the quadrefoil windows in the bell tower. A swift lure was played regularly (this involves playing recorded swift calls and dramatically increases the use of new sites for nesting) and swifts were observed responding to the lure. This year the coronavirus pandemic restrictions mean that the RSPB volunteer swift surveyors have been unable to monitor activity around the town, so we are unable to report directly about activity for the time being.

Have you seen any swifts? Around St.Michael's or anywhere in the town? If so please let David Mayers know, and he will forward the information to the local RSPB "Swifts over Macclesfield" group



## Silklife Foodbank

The Silklife foodbank has been operating at full pelt throughout the lockdown, sending out food parcels to hundreds of needy families in the town each week. Now that St.Michael's is open again, we will be delighted to receive donations, in the box in the welcome area, which will be forwarded to the foodbank. At the moment they are particularly short of UHT milk, and tinned meats, stews and vegetables. Don't forget that you can also donate in Sainsbury's—the box is after the tills. If you regularly shop there you can save a St Michael's person a trip by donating in Sainsbury's.



### Do you want to go back to the old “normal”; or stand up for something better?

If it's the latter, there are 2 opportunities coming up to find out how you could make a difference:

## Toxic trade deals

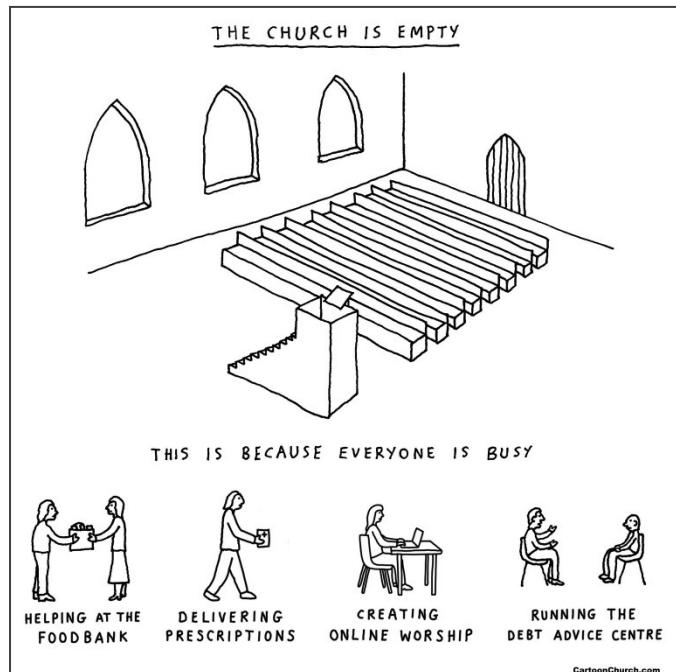
**Global Justice Macclesfield invite you** to find out why a trade deal with the US could undermine food and animal welfare standards, threaten the NHS and the environment and undermine action on climate change. With Jean Blaylock from Global Justice Now. Stop the toxic trade deal with Trump

- **When:** Wednesday 8 July at 7.30pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom. Please use this link <https://zoom.us/j/91227577071>

Johnson's government has started formal negotiations for a trade deal with the US. This could see chlorinated chicken on our shelves, US corporations deeper in the NHS and action on the climate emergency blocked. **We can't let this damaging deal happen.** Join us to discuss the issues and find out how we can resist a trade deal with Trump.

This meeting is organised by Global Justice Macclesfield.



## Important job at Bollinbrook School Do you know someone who could be our caretaker?



Permanent - 15 Hours per week flexible. Grade:3 - Annual salary £17,711 - £18,426 per annum pro rata. Actual £7,180 - £7,470. Bollinbrook C of E Primary School, Abbey Road, Macclesfield SK10 3AT

We are looking to appoint a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and hardworking caretaker who will become a member of our dedicated school team.

Our Christian ethos is encapsulated in our 'Love, Honesty, Respect' strapline and we are looking to recruit a Caretaker who is willing to bring enthusiasm and contribute to our success. You can be guaranteed a warm welcome and an opportunity to make a contribution to our School family.

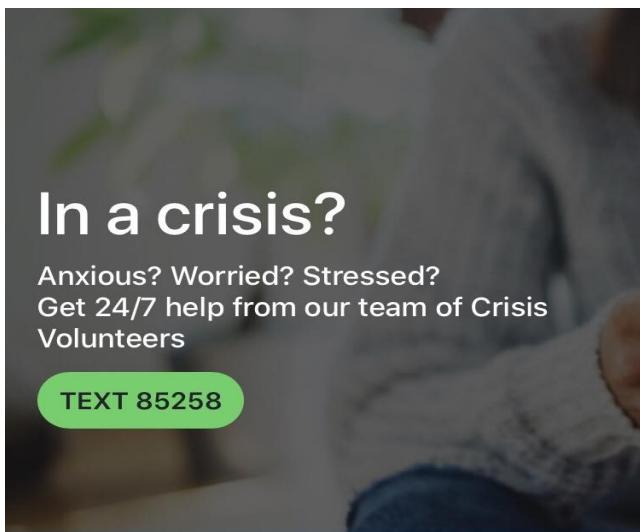
The successful candidate will start in August to allow time to become familiar with the demands of the role and to learn how to maintain and manage systems. You will start at 7.30am to unlock school and lock the gates at 9.00am. The other hours can be worked flexibly. Training will be provided as part of ongoing professional development and the successful candidate will play a key role in helping to deliver the School's vision for the future.

Closing date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 12 noon. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 15th July 2020. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, interviews may be conducted via the Microsoft Teams online platform; support and further guidance will be provided to shortlisted candidates. If you would like to discuss the position in further detail, please contact the School Business Manager on 01625 789089, email: [sbm@bollinbrook.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:sbm@bollinbrook.cheshire.sch.uk).

Further information, including detailed job description, person specification and downloadable application form is available via the School website – [Bollinbrook.school](http://Bollinbrook.school). Applications can be emailed to [sbm@bollinbrook.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:sbm@bollinbrook.cheshire.sch.uk)

Bollinbrook CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check is required for this post prior to commencement.

Any offer of employment is subject to references.



**Shout** offers a free mental health text support service for young people. There have been a number of recent reports of young people taking their own lives following anxieties over the effect lockdown would have on their GCSEs or A-Levels, please ensure that all of your young people have access to and know about '**Shout UK**'.

Anyone can **text 85258** for support.

**Professional Telephone Listening Service**

The Hope Centre  
Registered Charity 1140845  
**07958181927**

**10am - 4pm every day**

**READY TO LISTEN!**

**THE HOPE CENTRE**  
Living, Living, Serving, Sharing

The logo for The Hope Centre features the words 'THE HOPE CENTRE' in a stylized font, with 'Living, Living, Serving, Sharing' underneath. To the right is a graphic of two hands forming a heart shape. Below the logo is a photograph of two hands, one white and one dark-skinned, joined together in a heart shape against a pink background.

**BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION**



Proud of your front garden? Why not enter our competition

Categories:

- Best hanging basket
- Best window box
- Best small front garden (up to 25sq m)
- Best large front garden (over 20sq m)

**How to enter:** email a photo of your garden to [admin@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)

Four best entries for each category will be circulated on social media so people can vote. Trophy for the winners

**Closing date:** Monday 13th July

*Virtual GARDENS DAY*

No Open Gardens touring this year!

Virtually visit the gardens which would have opened via our website:

[www.wilmslowwells.org](http://www.wilmslowwells.org)

Launch Date: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June  
(and available onwards from this date)

**Wilmslow Wells for Africa**  
Registered Charity No : 328330



Sandie Bevan has a number of walking sticks she would like to donate for church use. If anyone would like to have one, Sandie is going to put them in the umbrella stand in the Welcome Area. Please help yourself. Otherwise they will be left in church should any church member or visitor need one at a later date.

Sue and the office assistants have been taking a well-deserved break this week.

Unfortunately it has been a lot of this



rather than



We hope you have had a good rest anyway, Sue. Thank you so much for everything you do to keep us all connected!