



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



## Simeon and Anna

(Luke 2: 22-40)

This is the time of the year when we remember Mary and Joseph bringing the baby Jesus into the Temple to make the

sacrificial offerings that were required according to the customs of their culture. You might like to read the story in Luke 2: 22-40.

Mary had always known that her son would be special right from the time of the angel Gabriel's visit to announce his birth, not to mention the unexpected visitors who came to see Jesus after he was born. Now we find Mary and Joseph, in the midst of their religious obligations, encountering two prophets, Simeon and Anna. There had been no prophets for hundreds of years, yet now we have not just one, but two, coming face to face with Jesus on this extraordinary day; and one of them a woman as well! There had only ever been a handful of female prophets.

Simeon, who is very close to God and profoundly sensitive to the Spirit's promptings, looks into Jesus' future and recognises him as the Lord's Messiah. His words, which we remember as the Nunc Dimittis at funerals and Evensong, are profound. His eyes have seen God's salvation – and that salvation (that revelation and glory) is not just for one nation or group of people, but for all people without distinction. Mary and Joseph are amazed at these words; they marvel. Even the visits of the shepherds and the magi haven't prompted them to marvel. These moments are of the greatest significance to Simeon as well. All that he has done, all that he has been (his whole life in fact) has found its deepest fulfilment in this one encounter, and now he is ready to die peacefully because he has seen God's salvation in this tiny baby. He is approaching his death, not with a sense of having lost a battle with illness; but rather with a sense that his life is now complete and his work done.

Simeon has some particular words for Mary; a sword will pierce her own soul. That will be when she watches Jesus die; his sufferings on the cross will scar her too. Simeon's words are dark ones and the journey Mary was called to make was not an easy one. We too might feel as if a sword pierces our souls as we watch a loved one die. Yet, we're not left without hope. Grief does not have the last word. Never forget that Jesus conquered death and Simeon's words about 'rising' remind us of that.

And then Anna slides into the picture. We don't know much about Anna and she only appears here in Luke's gospel. She is very old and has been a widow for many years. She never leaves the temple but devotes herself to prayer and fasting in the areas where women are allowed. She could have been sad or even bitter after a short, childless marriage, but instead Anna uses her time to worship God.

Although Anna is a prophet she has no voice. In the presence of the baby Jesus, the Saviour of the world, we read that she speaks, but what she says is sadly, and unlike Simeon, not recorded. Women throughout history have very often been denied a voice, yet let's not forget, in this encounter between Simeon, Anna and the infant Jesus, that both men and women are represented; both men and women are necessary as equal partners in God's on-going plans for the world.

As we peer down the depth of years picture Anna for a moment. Maybe, like Simeon, she takes the baby in her arms; maybe she admires him. We don't know, but we do know that she thanks God and talks about Jesus. Does this silenced woman still have a message for us today? Whatever her actual words were to simply know that she spoke cascades throughout the centuries to give a message for everyone; everyone in fact with a heart open to God or curious about God or searching for God – God who reveals himself in the infant Jesus Christ.

Anna reminds us of our need to thank and praise God. She has confidence in God, an eternally secure confidence in the living God; she trusts that he is working his purposes out and so her response is praise and thankfulness because of what God has done; what God is doing and what God will do. And she has confidence in God because she knows (somehow she has learnt) that God has confidence in her, and indeed in all of us.

Do we know that God has confidence in us? Do you know? It is the truth that sets us free - knowing that God first loved us. We are invited to search for God in this life, to search and maybe find him. And we can do that because God first sought us out – he came among us, lived a normal human life with its joys and its sorrows – in and through Jesus Christ. And we see the beginning of that human life as Anna draws our attention to Jesus; very God incarnate in the arms of Mary.

As we prepare to leave this story we remember Simeon and how he blessed Mary and Joseph, and the words he said - which are still said at Christian funerals today. However, let's have our last glimpse of the story focussed on Anna. This silent woman without a voice places Jesus before us and directs our attention to the One through whom we see God most clearly both in who He is and what He will go on to do – and reminds us that in His presence our deepest response is praise and thanksgiving.

*Vivien*

### The Collect for the Third Sunday before Lent

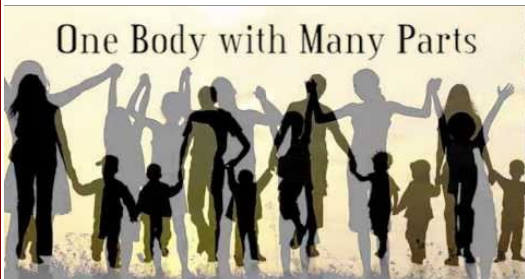
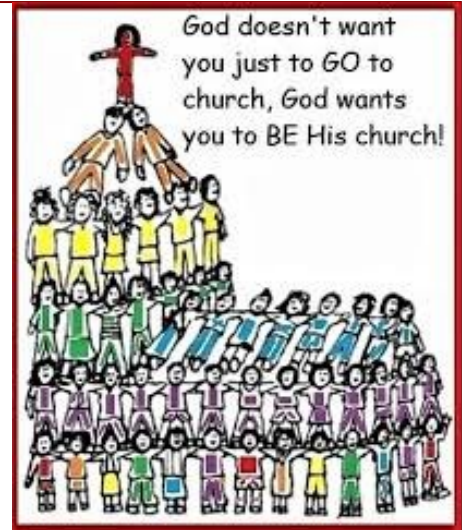
Eternal God,  
 whose Son went among the crowds  
 and brought healing with his touch:  
 help us to show his love,  
 in your Church as we gather together,  
 and by our lives as they are transformed  
 into the image of Christ our Lord.

## The Perfect Church?

Sometimes I have this dream of The Perfect Church. What would it look like? Remembering that in the bible the Church is a word that describes the people of Christ – the body of Christ here on earth. In this context we can ignore the building, no worries about boilers, heating, lighting, leaks in the roof – if only!! But for the purposes of this article I would like us to imagine that we can.

When the Christian church was being established and finding its feet there were many disputes and fallings out. If you want to find out more about these human shenanigans you should read the Acts of The Apostles and the letters written by various early church leaders to the young churches just being established. You might recognise the same familiar debates and disagreements, criticisms, rules and regulations, what should and shouldn't be. How we should behave, how leaders should behave, who should be allowed to speak and who should not be allowed to speak.

But amongst all this there were some clear messages from the God who promised the believers that they would not be left alone but that they would be given a helper so that they could find their way to carry out the great commission of sharing the good news that God loves us so much ...



In the early church it became apparent that people had different gifts/ skills/ characters. This caused some problems because people began to think that some gifts or skills were more important than others. The human nature in me and in all of us can begin to think that others should conform to the way I think about how things should be done.

In his letter to the Corinthians Paul had some strong words to say about this. (1 Cor. 12)

He appeals to the church people to remember that God works in different ways but it is the same God who does the work in all of us... a spiritual gift is given to

each of us (what for?) so that we can help each other. (v7). Accepting that others have a different gift from me is part of the discipline of belonging to the body of Christ. Encouraging each other to use our particular gift is part of the responsibility of belonging to the body of Christ. In reality this is very difficult, and as our church of St Michaels continues to grow and become a large intricate organisation it becomes even more difficult.

But this is why we need to remember that we have not been left alone. When Jesus was baptised he received the Holy Spirit. If Jesus himself needed this, then how much more do we need to receive the help of the Holy Spirit now? We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus did.

How do we call on the help of the Holy Spirit?

I would suggest the first requirement is to humble ourselves and acknowledge that we need this help. Jesus did not come to call the righteous but sinners. Those who are not ill do not need a doctor. (Matthew 9.12-13). This is picture language for saying put away your pride and your arrogant view of yourself and instead acknowledge your need of God. Humans - stop thinking that you are God, that you can sort this out yourself because you have brains, knowledge and skills. You can't. This is not a human endeavour but a spiritual, eternal endeavour. Secondly, the way to get to know God the Father, Jesus the Son and God the Holy Spirit is through prayer, bible study and life experience.

What do you think?

*Tricia Atherton*

Stop looking for the perfect church. It does not exist. Even if it did exist, the moment we joined it, it would no longer be perfect!

Nicky Gumbel

## Film Evenings 2025

We have rescheduled the showing of the film 'Marvellous' (which had to be cancelled last Friday owing to a power cut)

**It will now be shown on Friday 14th March, at 6.30.**

**Please sign the new list to indicate your attendance.** Neil Baldwin's visit to St Mike's has also been postponed owing to the lighting and heating situation at church. The date for his visit will be publicised nearer the time - probably some time around Easter.

**On Friday 28th Feb. we will be showing Sing-along-a-Mama Mia. It'll be a riot of fun!**



## Food for Thought

'All originality and no plagiarism makes for dull preaching.' *Charles Spurgeon*

'Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.' *St. Augustine*

You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage but He is 'building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.' *C.S. Lewis*

'Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.' *Mother Teresa*



## Connecting People Team Prayer Request



The Connecting People Team is one of the seven teams enabling the work of the Church Council.

- We encourage the Connection of people at St Michael's with God and each other.
- We seek to provide connection for regular church people, those unable to get to church, new people, people attending for life events
- We look at the opportunities available and the opportunities required that enable people to grow deeper and stronger in their faith, their Connection with God.

**If you are interested in joining the Connecting People Team, being involved with Baptism families or have any comments regarding Connecting People or the prayer requests please contact Rakesh Alexander (sonrak161013@gmail.com).**

### Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for our church family to have the desire to grow deeper and stronger in faith and to explore ways in which this can happen (Connecting People with God)
2. Connecting People is everyone's responsibility. Please pray that as a church family our eyes will be open to connect with others, welcoming all, especially newcomers.
3. Please pray for Cheryl as she sends cards to and prays for those concerned who have Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.
4. Please pray for the right people to be found to support Baptism families through Baptism preparation and becoming part of the church family.
5. Please pray for the planning of a year-long programme of activities to encourage families, including Baptism families, in their faith journey.
6. Please pray for the development of small groups and the people to lead them.
7. As Vicky and Gordon step down from the team, please pray for 2-3 people to join the Connecting People Team

Thank you.

### Connecting People Team

Rakesh Alexander, Tricia Atherton, Sallie Bancroft, Vicky and Gordon Darlington



## News from the Eco-church Team



### Hottest year on record sends planet past 1.5C for the first time

Most of you will have heard or seen the data published by the Copernicus Climate Change Service; the average global temperature in 2024 was 1.6C above pre-industrial levels. This heating is primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels, and the damage to lives and livelihoods will continue to escalate until coal, oil and gas are replaced as our sources of energy.

This will change our lives, and those of our children and grandchildren. But it is already contributing across large areas of the global south, where live the poorest people in the world, to mass starvation, warfare, flooding, extreme weather and migration.

### What can we do?

1. Read the account by Chris Huband, one of our congregation (on the next page), for some ideas
2. **Join our eco-church group** - next meeting is on Monday 24th March 7.30pm in the Welcome Area. Speak to David Mayers if you would like to know more about this group
3. **Attend the next Macctastic meeting on "Retro-fitting your property"** for more ideas on how to reduce the carbon emissions from your home. Tuesday 25th March 7.30pm in St Michael's
4. **And most of all PRAY!** Make creation care a central part of your prayer life. Here are some examples you could use:

Lord, make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion. And teach us to partner you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbours. Amen

God of creation and Lord of life,  
you entrusted us to care for our environment,  
but in many parts of the world we have failed.  
Help us to realise how fragile  
and unstable our surroundings are,  
because we are not looking after creation.  
We need to be true stewards  
and to understand how the most insignificant little flowers,  
and the tiniest insects,  
each creature and individual people  
are all part of a wondrous whole. Amen

Living God,  
you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home,  
strengthen us to care for your creation;  
forgive us when, through our greed and indifference  
we abuse its beauty and damage its potential.  
Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the  
world,  
that all creation sings to your glory. Amen



## Should I fit solar panels and a heat-pump to reduce my carbon footprint?

This is an account by Chris Huband of his experience and advice regarding these matters

I had a newish good quality gas boiler, 3 years into its 10 year guarantee when I decided to 'go green' in conjunction with an extension being built at the rear of my house.

By some jiggery pokery which I was not involved with, happily my neighbour was able to take over the remaining guarantee and had the boiler installed in their house. My gas meter has been removed and there is only one standing charge to pay for the electricity which incorporates a smart meter.

Following positive feedback from a customer known to me, I chose a company to install an air source heat pump and solar panels. The heat pump is very straightforward to understand: it does the opposite of a fridge. It takes air from outside and compresses it to a higher temperature. The claimed coefficient is that for each 1kWh (kilowatt hour) of energy used to operate the heat pump, 3kWh of energy is output, thus appearing to break basic laws of physics!

The heat pump is virtually silent in operation.

I rather regret not having had a battery installed at the outset. This would have allowed me to download electricity from the grid to operate the heat pump during the early morning hours when it is very cheap (or potentially I get paid for taking it). Instead I take advantage of an electricity tariff for heat pump users which gives me preferential rates. Even so, my overall bills compare favourably against conventional gas heating. Now heat pump batteries are exempt from VAT so I still might get one. Plus battery technology has probably improved recently.

Solar panels are used to heat hot water for general use in the house as well as for general electricity consumption around the house apart from the heat pump.

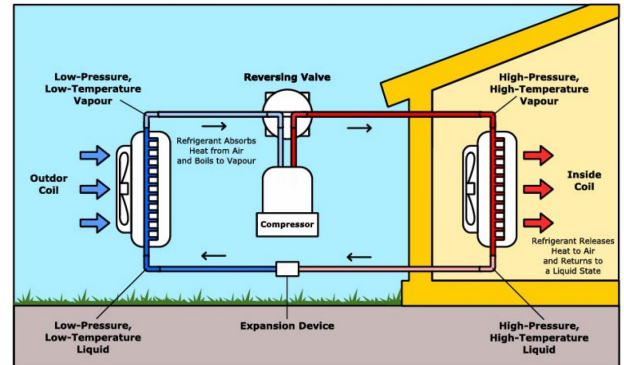


A super well-insulated hot water tank stores hot water. Any surplus electricity generated by the panels is sold back to the national grid.

There are a number of other factors that you might need to consider;

- 1) Government grants, as these change over time
- 2) Ground source heat pumps which are thought to be more efficient but you need a lot of land to facilitate them. Ground source are likely to be more expensive to buy than air source.
- 3) You need to have a fairly well insulated house for a heat pump to be installed.
- 4) Under floor heating may be more efficient than radiators. Some radiators may need to be replaced for a system to provide adequate heat.

### Air Source Heat Pumps Heating Cycle



## Update on the Church Boiler

### The new boilers have arrived and are in the boiler house!

There is still a considerable amount of work to do to install them, including cutting new flue outlets, pipework, controls and commissioning, but all should be completed by the end of the month.

In the meantime.. should we call them Left boiler and Right Boiler? No 1 and No 2? Topsy and Tim? Mary and Joseph (suggested by the heating engineers)?

We will offer a small prize for the best names for our twin boilers.

Suggestions to [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com) or just reply to the email which brought you this newsletter.

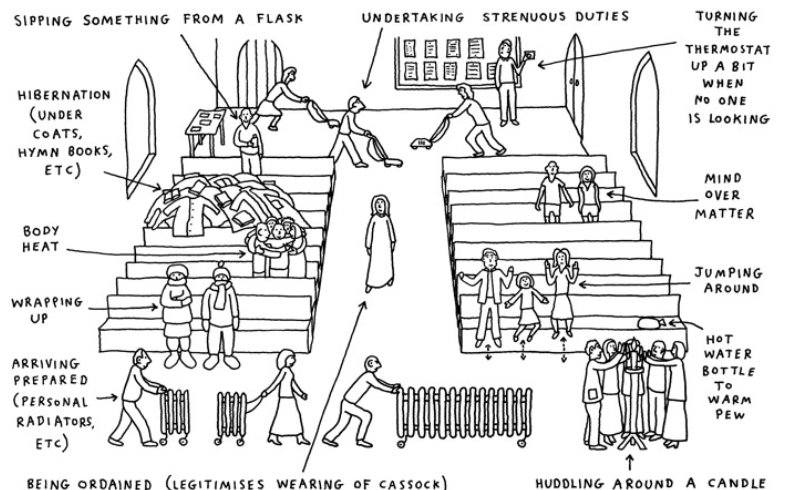


Our two new boilers

### Have we tried all these?

## WAYS TO KEEP WARM

IN CASE THERE IS ONE YOU HAVEN'T TRIED



CartoonChurch.com

## Recycle-Reuse Stall

St Michael's next Treacle Market Recycle-Reuse Stall will be on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Proceeds will go to our church eco-projects.

If you are having a spring clear-out please save your good quality pre-loved items for the stall. Books, toys and household items in good condition are very welcome. (NO CLOTHES please).

There will be a box in the back of church to receive donations once we are back to normal, in the meantime, if you can keep hold of items yourself please do so, otherwise please contact Anne Radmall ([anne@radmall.co.uk](mailto:anne@radmall.co.uk) / 07714 234624) to arrange to drop them off or have them picked up.

If you can help on the day to set up before church or run the stall, please contact Anne. And for more information please talk with Martin Bancroft, Lynne Spedding, Anne Radmall or Anne Kite (from the Social Action and Wider World Team)

(Any surplus items at the end of the day will be donated to charity)

Our last such stall raised quite a significant sum, which has allowed us to make donations to A Rocha, pay for the replanting of the containers outside church and for the lovely sign in one of the raised beds advertising our desire to preserve God's creation.



## World Day of Prayer 2025

The World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 7th March, 11.00am at the United Reformed Church, Macclesfield.

It will be lovely to have St Michael's folks attend. Barbara and Heike are involved in the planning of this service and are happy to give you further information if you would like some.

The rather 'busy' poster below gives more details.



AT  
**MACCLESFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
Park Green, SK11 7NA

**REFRESHMENTS FROM 10am**  
**SERVICE STARTS AT 11am**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

*An afternoon service is at St James Church, Gawsorth at 2pm*

**A wave of prayer which encircles the globe led by lay people**

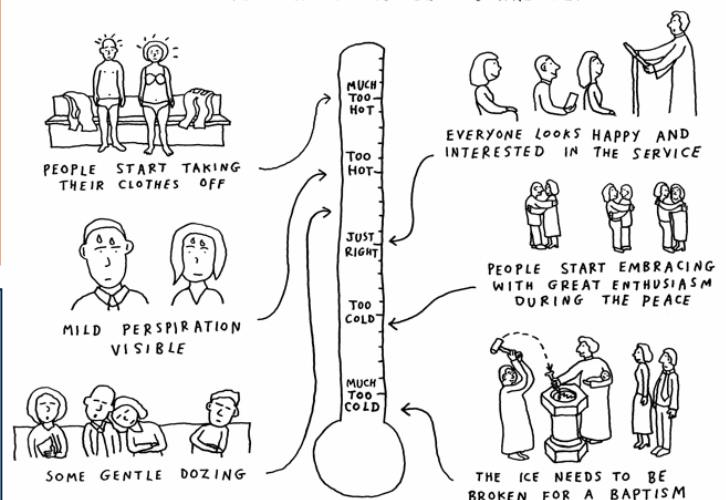
**This worldwide service has been written by Christian women from the...**



Because I'm confident we'll soon have heating again at church, here's another cartoon...

## THE HEATING SYSTEM

HOW TO TELL IF IT IS SET CORRECTLY



This is us currently!

CartoonChurch.com

## The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast



The Macclesfield Mayor's annual Prayer Breakfast will take place on Friday March 14th from 8.00am to 9:30am.

Organised by Hope In North East Cheshire, this year's event will include speeches from five local charities which each do amazing work in and around Macclesfield.

**Anyone** can attend, providing the organisers know in advance and providing space in the Town Hall allows.

If you would like to be invited to the Breakfast please contact Pip Moss crop who will arrange for you to receive an invitation.

[pipmoss crop2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pipmoss crop2@yahoo.co.uk)

There will be a charge of £10 per person for the event

## 'Bring on the Swing' Evening Sold Out



If you were hoping to buy tickets for the St Peter's 'Bring on the Swing' Concert on Thursday 27th Feb., I'm afraid you're too late - tickets are now sold out!

Good news for The Children's Society!

## Four Friends Painting Exhibition

Don't forget that, until Saturday 15th, you still have the opportunity to go to the art exhibition in the Library to see works by four people associated with St Mike's:

Catherine Stephens, John Staveley, Hilary Raymond and Hilary Plymen.

It's well worth a viewing.



## General Synod and Safeguarding Issues



**Below is a well-written response to the recent General Synod ruling regarding future arrangements for overseeing Safeguarding within the Church. It's long, but worth reading in full.**

### GENERAL SYNOD

*John Bav is a Church of England vicar, based in the Bradford area. He is a member of General Synod (the Church's parliament) and was in the chamber on Tuesday when the Synod met to agree the next step(s) in further improving the Church's arrangements for overseeing Safeguarding. Here he shares his thoughts.*

Today [Wednesday] you may see a lot of discussion on Facebook and in the media about safeguarding in the Church of England. Some of that may be accurate; some will be misrepresentation and controversy deliberately stirred up by people needing clicks and attention; some of it will be a misrepresentation as a result of misunderstanding. So I wanted to give you my view as someone who was in the chamber yesterday.

The people on General Synod are not stupid or evil or cowardly or self-interested or any of the other pejorative things which will likely be said about us. We met yesterday to discuss how to ensure that church is a safe community to be part of. The background is a series of scandals and subsequent reports and recommendations as to how to move forward. There is unanimous grief and repentance over the failings of the institution in the past. The voices of survivors and victims were heard and contributed to the discussion.

In front of us were two main options, known as "model 3" and "model 4". To summarise them briefly:

- model 3 would mean that the Church of England continue to employ safeguarding staff in dioceses, cathedrals, and the national team, but would create a separate, totally independent organisation to have oversight of church safeguarding. Perhaps a good analogy would be the way that Ofsted oversees education.
- model 4 would mean that a new, totally independent organisation would be set up to employ all safeguarding professionals in the Church of England. This would be in addition to the new totally independent organisation which would be set up to provide oversight as in model 3.

The bishop with responsibility for safeguarding is Joanne Grenfell, an extremely capable person, who introduced the motion which would have committed us to model 4.

There were several proposed amendments and each was debated carefully and thoughtfully. For example, there was an amendment proposed which would change the language of the motion from "greater independence" in safeguarding to "total independence". While this sort of totalising language is attractive at one level, in the end it is unhelpful. For one thing, it is philosophically undesirable to describe safeguarding as something other people do, something independent of us, when all our language should be about how safeguarding is something we all do, something we are all responsible for. Secondly, it is utterly impossible to have totally independent safeguarding. The work begins in the parish, where our brilliant safeguarding officers are volunteers and members of our church, and how could they be "totally independent"?

One amendment proposed committing ourselves to model 3 (instead of model 4) and this gave us the opportunity to debate the pros and cons of both models. As far as I could see, the main reasons for choosing model 4 were (a) this was the model the majority of survivors of church abuse wanted us to choose; and (b) It would make a statement to the world (and the media) that we were holding nothing back in our desire to be transparent and accountable and humble. However, I was aware that the survivors and victims were not unanimous in their views, and I was very concerned that we should choose the best, safest option, not just the one which we were under pressure to choose because of the way it would look to others.

There seemed to me to be a number of good reasons for us to choose model 3 instead of model 4.

1. No-one else anywhere has ever tried anything like model 4. It is untested, unknown, and unwieldy. The Bishop of Blackburn described it as "safeguarding done to us, rather than safeguarding done by us." as such, I fear that it might in fact be unsafe.
2. The vast majority of safeguarding professionals in the church recommended model 3. This was not self-interest (as someone unkindly suggested in a speech). Rather, it was the considered position of hard-working, experienced, committed professionals who actually manage the current system. And the current system is a million miles from what was (or wasn't) in place when the scandals mentioned earlier took place.
3. Legal advice from VWV solicitors warned that church charities (Diocesan Boards of Finance, Cathedral Chapters, etc) might find it extremely difficult to show that they were meeting legal obligations as charities if we adopted model 4.
4. This was reinforced by a letter from the Charity Commission reminding us all that charity trustees must consider safeguarding an essential part of their responsibility - not something which can be delegated to others.
5. An opinion from Jim Gamble of the INEQE safeguarding audit group (who have been auditing church safeguarding for a year and a half), recommended model 3 rather than model 4.
6. there are currently 85 charities in the C of E which employ safeguarding professionals (dioceses, cathedrals, nation church), and the task of transferring their employment, etc, to a new organisation is extremely complex with matters such as TUPE, variable terms of service, etc, to be considered. The new national organisation would have to create a new culture and identity, structures of management, etc, which would be complex and possibly opaque and introducing new, as yet unknown conflicts of interest. I am not sure it can be done well. I'm not convinced it would give us a safer outcome than we currently have.

The bishop of Blackburn proposed an amendment which gave us "model 3.5". This was a good solution in my opinion. It involved adopting model 3 but not ruling out model 4 in the future. This would commit us to begin to do the due diligence on whether model 4 was doable and how it would work, whilst getting on with setting up the independent oversight which both models envisaged. We aren't ready for model 4. We might never be ready for it, because it might not be the right model, but we won't really know without a lot more dispassionate research and planning.

**Summary:**

I think we have ended in the right place. So do the majority of Synod members, who voted for model 3.5. This includes the majority of the bishops. Before you launch into an online tirade, please respect the hours that have gone into the thoughtful consideration of these matters, the vast amount of reading we have all had to do, the careful prayer. May the Lord bless us all, and may the church be a safe place for all.

Not ONE person should come to harm through being part of the church community.

Notices for Advent Sunday, December 2nd. 1979

Good morning. There is a creche for small children in the choir vestry at the back of the Church.

Coffee is served immediately after the service in the Parish Room. Please come.

This afternoon, between 3pm and 5pm, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wardale are holding an Adventfest at their home, 54, Roewood Lane in aid of the Boiler Fund. Tickets are 40p. adults, and 20p. children, and £1 for a family ticket.

This evening's service will be a special service in which members of the Youth Club will be taking part.

Next Sunday, the services will be Holy Communion at 8am and 6-30pm. Family Worship at 1030am.

There will be a service of Holy Communion on Thursday at 1030am.

**CHRISTMAS CARD DISTRIBUTION.**

As in previous years facilities will be provided for Church members to exchange Christmas Cards. For three Sundays, beginning next week, cards may be left at the back of Church, on labelled chairs. Please help by collecting your own cards, and also those of neighbours and friends. The church cannot accept responsibility for uncollected cards.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE.** There will be a Christingle Service in this Church on Friday, December 14th at 6-30pm. All are welcome.

**THE VICAR'S APPOINTMENT.**

The Vicar has accepted the Bishop's invitation to become the Director for Resources for the Diocese of Chester. This is a new post created because of the many difficulties caused through inflation in the parishes. His task will be to visit all the clergy, and as many P.C.C.'s as possible in order to assist in any way in the question of Christian Commitment and Giving.

This appointment takes effect from the 1st September, 1980, and will necessitate the Haslams removing to Chester in early August. It must be emphasised that they will leave Macclesfield, only with the greatest of regret. The past 9 years have been amongst the very happiest for them. Please pray for the Parochial Church Council as it meets next Monday, the 10th, in order to draw up a job description for the Simeon Trustees whose responsibility it is to select a new Vicar for this parish.

The Vicar, who is himself a Simeon Trustee, will withdraw from the meetings at which the discussions of Macclesfield's vacancy take place.

**SENIOR CITIZENS.**

The Rotary Club of Macclesfield Castle has arranged for the Grosvenor Centre to remain open for an hour and a half on Tuesday of this week, from 6-30pm to 8pm in order that Senior Citizens might be able to shop for Christmas without all the crowds. If you would like to join this shopping expedition, Mr. Neil Percival, Tel. 26880 is a member of the Club, and will be able to help with further details.

**I thought I'd share with you a St Mike's notice sheet from 1979, so you can compare and contrast (both the format and the content).**

**We discovered this when going through our boxes of children's memorabilia recently - part of our 'Swedish death-cleaning' process!**

**The Vicar in question was Frank Haslam. The Parish Room was what is now called the Youth Centre.**

**Note: three services every Sunday!**

Join us for *Worship*



### Sunday Worship

16th February 2025

Third Sunday before Lent

**10:00am: Church Family Communion**

**Bible Reading: Psalm 1**

**Leader, Speaker and Celebrant: Revd Martin Stephens**

Please use the link below to stream this  
(and previous services) on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield>

### Start the Week

Every Monday from 7.30am in church

Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stmikesmacclesfield>

### Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel  
lasting 30-40 minutes.

**May be subject to change owing to the lighting work  
Next taking place on Wednesday 19th February**

### Thursday Morning Worship 10:30am (35–40 mins)

Our midweek services follow the order from  
the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) and  
alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

**20th February: Morning Prayer  
27th February: Holy Communion**

### Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer –  
Morning and Evening groups

Please contact Eve & David Budgett (431606)  
or David Mayers (420716) for more information



### Contemplative Prayer

For the duration of the lighting work, this will take place on  
**Saturdays, 9.20-9.50 in the Savage Chapel**, lasting half an  
hour. An opportunity for quiet prayer followed by a short chat.

### Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm Join  
Zoom Meeting; [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdZz09)

[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: **compline**



**Compline**

Most activities during the week at church should be unaffected by the lighting works, but please check if you are in doubt. However, **Contemplative Prayer** will take place on **Saturday** mornings rather than Friday (9.20-9.50 in the Savage Chapel).

### Share your Photos with St Mike's Church Family



If you have any photographs of recent activities you have been involved in which you would like including in the weekly bulletin/newsletter or in the Church Family News slot in Sunday services, please use this number to WhatsApp them to the relevant people:

**+44 7579 820265**

You can, of course, also email pictures and text to

[stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)

### How to contact the office...



**Phone:** Landline: 01625 421984

**Email addresses:**

- **Isobel** [clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk) for ministry issues
- **Elaine** [bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk) for bookings and building matters
- **Bulletin/Newsletter** [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)
- **Printing** [maccteamprinting@gmail.com](mailto:maccteamprinting@gmail.com)
- **Safeguarding** see box below

**Postal Address:** The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

**Elaine's office hours** are usually Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am – 1:30 pm

**Isobel's Office hours** are usually Monday & Wednesday 9.00-3.00; and Thursday & Friday 9.00 - 1.00

### Safeguarding Contact Information



If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the St Michael's Safeguarding Officer, Katie Wilcock:

**Phone:** 07438 807213

**Email:** [safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)



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Email any prayer requests to:

[prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)

*(your request will be circulated confidentially to a limited group of people who will pray for you)*

