



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Growing Older (and still growing - in wisdom and faith)

Recently I have been deeply moved by the visits and phone calls I have been making and the teaching we have received in church.



Getting older used to be considered positively. Is that because in days of yore people didn't live very long? With age comes wisdom if we are open to learning.

Is not wisdom found among the aged?
Does not long life bring understanding? Job 12:12

In some places older people are still valued. We value things such as wine, cheese and antiques but, sadly, many in our society discount elders as not being of use! This is not the case!

God does not discriminate between people on any characteristics, including age.

Even to your old age and grey hairs
I am he, I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you. Isaiah 46:4

As Christians we are encouraged to look after those who are older, not just those who are our family but also those in our society, especially the church. 1 Timothy 5

I have been blessed and found a wealth of the Spirit in older people, many in their 90s. They really live out the Psalm,

My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26

Their fruit is evident,

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23



We are taught that, by believing in God and staying connected through the Holy Spirit, we have all the qualities of the fruit (some may be stronger than others). How often do we get caught up in the "doing" of life, like Martha? Certainly, modern life is full of activity and instant responses, next day deliveries. Waiting or stopping is seen negatively. By stopping

and slowing down to be present with our Lord, like Mary, we are able to receive. A tea or coffee pot can only be filled if it is set down. (This may be an old-fashioned analogy as we tend to use mugs these days and not wait for it to brew!) Do we set ourselves down and allow ourselves to brew? For the Fruit to develop to maturity we need to stay connected to the tree of life, Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we forget to connect, to set ourselves down and be steeped in God's presence. It is only by taking this time to be filled, like Mary, that we can then be poured out to witness and work for God, to be a better Martha.

Those I visit and telephone witness to the people around them; those with whom they live, carers and health professionals and visitors like myself. The love they share, the joy of being in Christ's presence, their prayerfulness despite the challenges they face is wonderful. Some read the bible daily, others know prayers and services such as Compline (Night Prayer) by heart. Do we?

We all get older day by day. Let those of us who are younger learn from our elders in age and the Spirit. We need to take time to sit with and learn from them. May we make time to be present, to set ourselves down, so that we too can be filled and grow to maturity (including age) full of the Fruit of the Spirit and pour ourselves out as witnesses of Christ's love and compassion to those around us.

Sallie Bancroft



Open Door - 20 year anniversary

See our 4-page spread in his month's edition, marking 20 years since we returned to the church building after almost two years out, while the amazing re-configuration of the interior took place, launching our Open Door project.

LET'S: this Sunday



Don't forget that **Let's Eat Together**
Sunday is this week, **16th June**.
Don't eat alone on Sunday!

Bring some food and eat with others, maybe sharing if you wish.

Newcomers especially welcome: don't worry if you haven't any food - there's usually plenty.

The Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank You!



... to all who have donated such wonderful hand-knitted or crocheted scarves for our eco-project "Let's Knit a Scarf to Keep the Church Warm!"

I have already received about 130 scarves in every colour, shape and size waiting to be sewn loosely together to create our one massive scarf to go all around the outside of church, so there'll be no problem in having enough to fulfil the brief!

Please share this project with family and friends, and especially on social media. The real aim is fund-raising.

Shorter term we hope to install a new, energy-efficient boiler (plans are already underway for this) and longer term we look towards repairing the roof and installing solar panels.

All this takes money - far more than we can easily raise ourselves through small fund-raising projects. However, if we can show that we are committed to making a financial contribution, we are in a much better position when making bids for external grants.

Please encourage friends and family to go our website (google St Michael's Macclesfield or go direct to stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk) where there is a link for donations. If lots of people donated just the prices of a cup of coffee, we would soon meet our goal of raising £1,000 through the JustGiving site.

After we have celebrated our "wrapping up the church" on 29th September (St Michael's Day) we will be selling off all the individual scarves, so hope to make a considerable amount more money from that.

If you are still knitting/crocheting scarves, please make sure they are finished for August.

Many thanks

Lynne

We recently had a feature in the Macclesfield Express - I hope you saw it!

If not, click [here](#)

Below is the photograph I submitted showing me with just a few of the wonderful scarves.



Battery Recycling

We have a new, **childproof** battery-recycling receptacle (situated just outside the office).

Please do recycle your spent batteries appropriately - we are happy to do this for you if you bring your old batteries to church.



Wear your flower, show you care!



Cheryl Mercer has been busy knitting; not just a scarves, but also these beautiful flowers.

Using unwanted wool and buttons she hopes to sell these very unusual brooches to raise funds for the various eco-projects at St.Michael's.

They will be on sale in at church in the next few weeks; supplies are limited!

Cricket

After 3 games (one was washed out) the church cricket team has a record of played 3, won 3. Not bad!

But much more important is the fun and fellowship we enjoy and the relationships we develop.

Cricketers of all standards are welcomed; as are spectators, umpires and scorers.

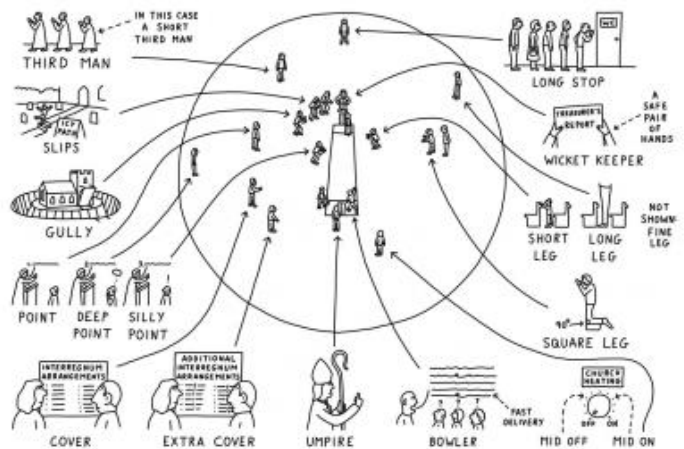
Our most recent game - see photo - brought a win against Manchester Tamil Christian Fellowship, but as you can see everyone had a great time.

For more information contact David Mayers on davidjmayers@btinternet.com



CRICKET

FIELDING POSITIONS, AND THEIR ECCLESIASTICAL EQUIVALENTS



The "Open Door" Project -

celebrating 20 years in our
"reordered" church building:
a new building for a new
purpose.



Open Door

If you have joined St Michael's Church Family in the last 18 or so years, you are probably not aware of the massive change to the building made soon after the millennium, which was spearheaded by a team of wonderful, committed members with a clear vision for the future, and the energy and dedication to see it through.

Our old building wasn't fit for purpose. Old, dark, with no kitchen, office space and poor toilet facilities, we had years of discussion in Church Council meetings mainly about the need for new toilets! Eventually the discussions developed into a scheme for something far greater and more ambitious, along with a repurposed sense of mission and outreach - a building to meet the needs of the whole Macclesfield community.

And so, the Open Door Project took shape (and we left the building for almost **two years**)!

Gordon Darlington remembers:

This weekend marks 20 years on from the first service in St Michael's Church following the completion of the refurbishment works to the building. The work involved transforming a historic town centre church for the 21st Century needs of our members and for future outreach and mission.

On the morning of Sunday, 13th June, 2004, a packed congregation, choir and clergy entered the building as music played for the singing of the hymn "Now thank we all our God".



This is the old view towards the south door and War Memorial (the office is now on the right of this photo and ahead is the south side staircase)



The building works underway: the view to the main entrance and west window, with the massive steel frame now in place to support the Welcome Area, the upstairs room and the choir vestry.

The Open Door Project, as it became known, started a long time ago, in the late 90s with the need to replace the toilets in the old Parish Room.

From the Church Council discussions came the realisation that what the church really required were new facilities throughout the building in a more modern surrounding, where our church members could meet and utilise on a day to day basis as well as sharing amenities with the community of Macclesfield in an open and welcoming atmosphere.

The question was – could our vision become a reality!



Here's Earl Rivers, having a rest on the floor as he is moved from his former location to his new site in the chancel

A Steering Group was formed under the leadership of our then Rector, Reverend John Briggs, from which the Project Team developed and was led under the Chairmanship of David Wightman. The project from day one was underpinned by the prayers, enthusiasm and commitment of all the church members.

None of us at that time realised the scale of what we had let ourselves in for and from that moment onwards, our Lord took us all on a Journey of Faith.

Looking back to those early days, we were all tested personally, wrestling with concerns of the project; how can we raise the money required, are there numbers in the congregation able to raise a sum of over a million pounds, and just as concerning how are we going to hold the church together when we would be out of the building for over a year.

Imagine, here we were a team of experienced individuals in our own professional lines of work, tasked in delivering a major project and not being fully in control or providing answers to the many and varied questions.

As the weeks passed, through prayer we began to lay the whole project with its many concerns at our Lord's feet, realising that this was **His Project** and he would be with us all the way.

The doubting lifted, the Church Council voted and the Project was given the green light. From the start we were blessed with gifts, generous legacies left to St Michael's over the previous years, also by the commitment and sacrificial support from the congregation, the promise of funds soon reached the necessary amount to appoint our preferred Architect Team.

Throughout the preliminary stages we had gained the support and encouragement of many people including our Diocesan Advisory Committee and a special mention here must go to Cliff Mills, who successfully led us through the Consistory Court proceedings.

Finally, in Spring 2004 after nearly two years the refurbishment of the building was completed.



Crowds gather in the Market Place for the official re-opening of the building

The support and commitment of the congregation had been matched by the vision and skill of our Architects Barlow, Wright & Phelps of Buxton along with the Design Team, all playing an important role in bringing the scheme together as a first class design.

And finally, but of no less importance, the personnel from our building contractor Ian Martin Building Limited for their integrity and detail to quality of workmanship who along with the design team, brought an imaginative scheme to our church building.

And not forgetting the generosity of both local Council and the congregation from the Methodist Church at Whalley Hayes for allowing us to use their buildings and facilities in the Town Hall.



The choir leads the procession back into the building



The symbolic "opening of the door"

Since the handover of the Project twenty years ago we have had the privilege and the responsibility of this great gift of a building as our base for our Lord's Mission and its foundation built on prayer. Over the years prayer has been at the heart of our mission and as we enter our third decade, our current Rector, Reverend Martin Stephens has been handed the task for the mission and worship. Now the Open Doors swing both ways welcoming everyone into our Church and we remember that our mission to which we offer ourselves is not ours, but our Lord's.



Our first service back in the building

St Michael's Project Team included:-

- David Wightman – Chair
- Mike Strutt and Beth Marshall – Financial and Administrative
- Team Administrator – Frances Hiles
- Our Acting Clerk of Works – Alan Thomas (a great friend and sadly missed)
- Val McBeath – Communications
- Grace Edgar – Leader of the Prayer Group
- Gordon Darlington – Contract Liaison (and writer of this article)

all under the leadership of Reverend Canon John Briggs, the then Rector, and with the support, generosity and prayers of the whole church family

Church's £1.6m facelift moves a big step closer



Canon John Briggs..pleased with progr

by James Plater

AN HISTORIC church building is being brought into the 21st century with a £1.6 million facelift.

St Michael's Church, a listed building in the heart of Macclesfield, is more than half way in its bid to become a tourist attraction with a modern makeover.

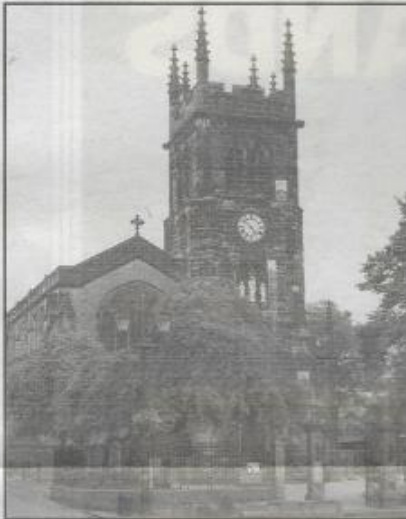
The stunning exterior of the 700-year-old building will not be touched by the development but there will be major improvements inside.

A welcoming room, office, assembly rooms, toilets and catering facilities will all be included in the new multi-storey structure.

The main worship area will be adapted for concerts and drama performances and there will be a dedicated youth centre, available for Sunday School and a creche.

Dubbed the Open Door Project, it is hoped the project will make the church more accessible to families and young people in the community.

Canon John Briggs, the Rector of Macclesfield, said: "Our location makes St Michael's a natural meeting place for those working and shopping in town, as shown by the popularity of the open days held over the summer and the



St.Michael's church in Market Place

lunchtime services held during Lent and Advent.

"St Michael's is the most historic building in the town and could become a much greater tourist attraction.

"By making the church more available and welcoming, we would hope to benefit Macclesfield as a whole as well as meeting the spiritual needs of a wider group of people.

"Improving our facilities for families and for youth work are key parts of our plan."

More than £800,000 has already been raised or pledged towards the project.

Fundraising events are continuing at the church starting on Sunday when the Rt Revd Michael Baughen, a former Bishop of Chester, will lead a service dedicated to the project.

Then, on Sunday, October 6 there will be a Gift Day service with an opportunity to make donations to the fund.

A well-known historian, Dr Jane Laughton, is producing a book about the history of the church with proceeds going to the project. Copies of the book will be available early next year.

Swift Walk

A guided walk by local RSPB member Tina Hanak on **Monday 1st July 6.30pm**.



- Have swifts been nesting in our swift boxes in the church tower?
- How many swifts are there in Macclesfield?
- What do you know about the amazing life stories of these wonderful birds?

All welcome.

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

SAT

JUNE

22ND

7.30PM

ADMISSION FREE

FEATURING:

SOUTHLAND OF THE HEART

Just One Quarteto

The Windmill Street Singers

ALWAYS A TEASPOON

St Peter's Midsummer Music

Saturday 22nd June
See poster to the right



DONATIONS TO EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE

ST PETER'S CHURCH, WINDMILL STREET,
MACCLESFIELD SK11 7HS

BRING A BOTTLE!

Church renovation unearths historic artifacts

by Gavin Hird

WHILE preparing for the start of a £1.6 million restoration project at Macclesfield's St Michael's Church, the congregation unearthed treasures dating back hundreds of years that they did not even know existed.

The 'Open Door' project, to improve the facilities inside the 13th century building, is set to begin on June 30 and will take about eight months to complete.

Work has been underway to catalogue and pack away all the historic items of interest inside the church so they are not damaged when the restoration starts.

Amazed

But the volunteers were amazed at the kind of items they have found and stored away - including 17th century helmet and breastplate armour from the time of Oliver Cromwell.

Churchwarden, Kath Langan, said: "Imagine an old family home full of ancient heirlooms including irreplaceable antiques and 100 years worth of family bric-a-brac.

"We have cupboards full of everything from church music to the angel wings we use for nativity plays. We must decide what to keep and where and how to store it."

Macclesfield Camera Club has made a photographic record of the interior of the church so that when the building work is complete, the fittings can be accurately replaced.

The last public viewing of the church as it currently looks will be this weekend when the building will be open for coffee on Saturday and services on Sunday.

After the following week's service on June 29, the church will close until



CHURCH warden Kath Langan packs away some of the many artifacts

March 2004 and Sunday morning services will be held in the town hall.

The first major building work at the church for over 100 years will provide a welcoming area with a manned office, allowing visitors to call in throughout the week.

The main worship area where services are conducted will be adaptable for concerts or drama performances.

Assembly rooms, with toilets and catering facilities, will be included in a new three-storey structure inside the main entrance.

The design includes a

glass wall between new and existing parts of the building which will be one of the largest in a British church.

The estimated cost of the 'Open Door' project currently stands at £1.6 million, but after more than five years of planning, £1.2 million has been raised or pledged.

Rector of the church, Canon John Briggs, thanked Macclesfield Borough Council for providing the town hall for the 10.30am Sunday service, and the Methodist Church in King Edward Street where services will be held at 8.30am and 6.30pm from July 6.

The Wood-Wide Web

Below are pictures of just some of the different fungi which have appeared on my front lawn over recent months. I love them!

Have you heard of the 'wood-wide web' - the immense network of mycorrhizal fungi underground - hidden, yet hard at work in all sorts of wonderful ways, and only emerging occasionally to fruit visibly as 'toadstools / mushrooms'?

Trees use this network to source nutrients and also even to communicate with each other! In return they supply the fungi with sugars. Older trees, known as "mother trees" use it to provide shaded seedlings with sugars, giving them a better chance of survival.



Trees also use the fungi to send messages to each other! If they are attacked, they can release chemical signals through their roots which are carried by the fungi and warn their neighbours to raise their defences

When I told a friend I wanted to include some of these pictures in this newsletter, they said, "What's the spiritual point, Lynne?" I hope it's obvious!



Firstly, I hope you are amazed, as I constantly am, by the natural world: God's breathtaking creation and gift to us.

But this image also reminds me of the innumerable people whose quiet Christian lives, like the mycorrhizal fungi, go largely unseen, yet which give support, encouragement and succour to all they meet in their network of activity, "fruiting" or coming to wider attention unexpectedly and noticeably only from time to time.

This hidden network reminds me of the words at the close of George Eliot's novel, *Middlemarch*, where the beneficial impact of its heroine Dorothea's quiet life is described thus:



"The effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts, and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who live faithfully a hidden life..."



The whole novel centres on networks, on how each life impacts on so many others, both directly and indirectly. Our impact is similarly diffusive and often unrecognised, but not by Him who sees and understands all. May we use our networks to God's glory and in His name.

Coverage in the Macclesfield Express: 18 June 2003

"Summer Sundays" at the United Reformed Church



Dates for your diary.

Macclesfield & Bollington URC are planning two services entitled, 'Hymns & Readings for a Summer Sunday', for **Sunday 28th July and Sunday 25th August, both starting at 5.30 pm.**

In addition to hymns and readings, the church hopes that some local church choirs will be willing to bring a choral interlude of their repertoire to share with the congregation.

The Ukrainian Community Cafe

For two years, since the arrival of the first refugees from the war (there have since been over 200 refugees arriving in Macclesfield and the surrounding area), St Michael's has hosted on Saturday mornings in the Youth Centre a cafe for the Ukrainian community in Macclesfield.



Here people can meet friends, speak Ukrainian, share experiences and receive support.

The project is supported by Refugees Welcome, One Project Ukraine and the Town Council, and has regularly welcomed on every Saturday over 30 people who have been very grateful for the help they have received.

Most of the refugees are still in Macclesfield, and most have become independent and have integrated very successfully into the life and economy of the town. But some, particularly the older people, still struggle with their English and the traumatic upheaval they have experienced. So, to meet their needs, the cafe now runs once a month on the first Saturday from 10 - 11.30am.



Please feel free to visit and say hello, you will be very welcome. And thanks to all those who have given up their time to steward and serve refreshments and make this vital facility possible.

Contact David Mayers if you would like to know more, and perhaps to help out on an occasional basis.

St Barnabas Drop-in

For your information, St Barnabas are holding an Open Drop-In on **Tuesday 18th June, 1:30pm to 6.00pm.**



This is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to find out about and give feedback on the exciting changes happening at St Barnabas: closing as a parish church but establishing **'St Barnabas Community: A Community of People Where God is and Good Happens'**.

See flyer attached with this newsletter.

You are all be welcome to drop-in.

HOPE Supporters' Evening



The next Hope Supporters' Evening is on **Wednesday 19th June 7.00 - 8:30pm** at Holy Trinity Hurdfield's Community Hub.

These evenings are always wonderful opportunities to share uplifting stories of God's work in and around Macclesfield. Do come along.

Eco-Sign for the Churchyard

We have now purchased this beautiful sign (below) for our churchyard which gives information about our eco-work in the grounds, together with a Bible verse and a prayer.

The sign will shortly be secured in place - please take time to have a look at it.

It was paid for from funds raised by our "Recycle, Reuse" stall last October - so thanks to all who donated items or purchased goods from the stall!

Welcome to St Michael's Churchyard

We hope you will find time to enjoy the peace and quiet and appreciate the wildlife you find here

Psalm 139 verse 14

"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful; I know that full well."

Care for God's creation is part of the Christian life

We recognise that God's creation - the natural world we all love and enjoy - is increasingly at threat from human activity. As an Eco-Church, caring for the environment is a key focus at St Michael's.

A Prayer for Creation:

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the beauty and wonder of creation; and for the generosity of Your provision for us. We recognise that the way we live is putting our planet and all plants, creatures, and people at risk. We pray for ourselves that we may live more simply and sustainably, and for our leaders that they may make the right choices to bring an end to climate change and biodiversity loss. Amen.

Scan this QR code to access more information about the Eco-Church scheme



Scan this QR code to access more information about activities at St Michael's



General Election

The Church of England has launched a campaign known as #PrayYourPart - to promote prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.



A series of daily thematic reflections written by bishops, drawn from the Bible and exploring major themes will be covering the final three weeks up to polling day. They will be available as a booklet, in audio form for smart speakers, as free opt-in emails and through social media.

Throughout the coming weeks, a range of Christian voters from across England will be invited to share what they are praying for for the nation, through a series of videos under the banner #PrayYourPart. **For more information click [here](#).**

STOP PRESS: Copies of the 'Pray Your Part' booklet are now available in the Welcome Area (suggested contribution of £1.00).

PLEASE NOTE: there will be an election hustings at St Michael's on Monday 1st July at 7.30pm



Congratulations, David!



David Black receiving his 30 year award for doing volunteer work at East Cheshire Hospice.

Music@Mike's

The next two concerts are:

Thursday 20th June

Johanna Leung and friends - three recent Royal Northern College of Music graduates performing on piano and two clarinets.



Friday 28th June

Martin and Oliver Parkes on piano and saxophone in a special concert in memory of local music lover David West.

All are welcome.

Free entry with voluntary donations going jointly to the East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's Church.

Heritage Open Day

A date for your diary:
Sat. 14th September



St Michael's will be open for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 14th September, and this is another great opportunity to showcase our building, which is the oldest building in Macc still in use today (at least the Savage Chapel is).

We need people to be there on the day to welcome visitors and show them where key things are (you don't have to know all the history beforehand, we can help with that). It would be great if there were also some who will be available for pastoral support or prayer.

The Open Church Team has all sorts of ideas and suggestions about costumes reflecting the different "ages" of the heritage links in St Michael's (Mediaeval, Georgian, Victorian, 20th century), displays, etc but **we need someone to lead on developing these ideas.**

If we are to do anything special this should be advertised with the other venues, so we need to know soon.

Please contact Rachel

July Lunchtime Recitals in aid of Silklife Foodbank

There will be a series of lunchtime recitals at Macclesfield & Bollington URC: Saturdays 6, 13 & 20 July from 12.30 - 1.15 pm.



"Music for Soprano and Organ" with members of the Macclesfield Light Orchestra; and David Phillips, organist.

Entrance is free but please bring a non-perishable food item for the Silklife Foodbank.

Cash donations welcome.

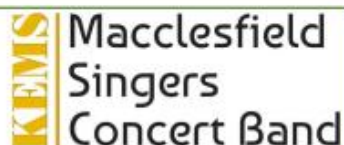
See flyer attached with this newsletter

More information is available from Katharine at outreach@thechurchparkgreen.co.uk



Summer Concert

Saturday 15th June
7.30pm



St Michael's Church

There will be a KEMS (King Edward Musical Society) joint choir / concert band concert this Saturday (15th).

The programme is varied and lively, including Verdi operatic choruses, and pieces by Gershwin, Cole Porter, Glenn Miller, Howard Shore, Henry Wood and Handel.

Do join us for this, the final concert of the 2023-24 season.
Flyer attached with this newsletter.

ORDINATION



THE ORDINANDS HAVE TOILED AT THEIR BOOKS FOR MANY YEARS



THEY HAVE PREPARED THEIR RECENTLY PURCHASED VESTMENTS



THEY HAVE RECEIVED A BLESSING FROM THE BISHOP



NOW, AT LAST, THEY ARE FULLY QUALIFIED TO SERVE THE CHURCH

CartoonChurch.com

Thank-you!

The organisers of the recent Macclesfield Bikeathon would like to thank all who helped make this event a success - which includes members of St Mike's.
Save the date for next year: 15th May 2025.



**Macclesfield's
1261 Festival and
Parade Day:
28th-30th June**



Join the Macclesfield Town Council's initiative for a weekend of art, entertainment, making and partaking.

Named for the town's charter year, the 1261 Festival plans to be a celebration of Macclesfield's creativity and community. We'll be offering live music, workshops, exhibitions, activities, street theatre, walking tours and loads more.

Things are kicking off early on Saturday at the Library, which will be open from 9am to help tiny hands make the most colourful paper crowns and flags, ready to cheer on the One World Parade, setting off from the Town Hall at 11am.

Co-ordinated by **Macclesfield Community ArtSpace** the parade will be showcasing community groups from every corner of Macc, with some of the floats available to view in the St. Michaels Church Yard after the parade returns.

There's plenty of other activities to keep you busy on Saturday, from Christ Church to the Silk Museum and a few walking tours to take you everywhere in between. When you're ready to take a breather there are deckchairs and benches waiting for you in Market Place amongst our mini street-food market, or just take a stroll and enjoy the street entertainers with a take-away from your favourite Macc coffee shop.

Spanning across the weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon will be *1261: The After Party*, co-ordinated by **Choose Macc**. *The After Party* events will be taking place in venues all over town, with access to all events being granted via a special *1261: The After Party* wristband. Wristbands cost £5 (+ booking fee) and will be available to buy from the *Party in the Pews Festival* at Christ Church on the weekend of May 25th.

To round off the weekend head to the iconic **Treacle Market** on Sunday from 10am – pick up a recovery breakfast, enjoy a mooch around the dozens of stalls and track down the perfect souvenir to remember the festival.

From Treacle to Silk, Pandas to Potatoes, and Mayall to Curtis we've got a lot that makes us Macclesfield – so let's put on a bit of a show.

A full programme of activities taking place over the festival will be available from the Visitor Information Centre and on the MTC website from Tuesday 18th June.



1261 Festival

**Calling on St Mike's
Volunteers!**



Can you help on the weekend of 28-30 June with keeping the church open to welcome visitors to the building during the town's 1261 Festival?

The café will be open as usual but more welcomers would be greatly appreciated.

Please let Rachel know if you can help.

**LIGHTS!!!
Action!!!**



Church members, and especially those who hire our building, have been complaining about our lighting for years.

Although it was new in 2004, the metal halide technology has not stood the test of time and is very greedy for electricity (so is costly both to the environment and to us). It has now got to the point where we hirers are choosing to go elsewhere, and it will only get worse. The future is LED lighting, with easily-selected settings for different scenarios (concerts, services etc). After several years of exploring options, suppliers and designs this project is now under way.

CBG consultants, recommended by our architects, have come up with a scheme for the worship area and Savage Chapel, which has, of course, to be approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, but we hope that the installation work can start early in 2025.

You can see some drawings and illustrations on a board in the north aisle.

The cost of this scheme will be somewhere in the region of £100,000, (depending on the contractor) and we can only consider this thanks to an extremely generous legacy we received from the late John Edwards. We are very, very grateful to John for considering St Michael's in his will. Our legacy policy is that legacies should be dedicated to a specific improvement project rather than general running expenses, and we are absolutely delighted that, in this case, the legacy is enabling us to progress the much-needed lighting project.



Have you considered your own will recently?

Have you considered leaving a legacy to St Michael's?

You can see how grateful church members will be at some point in the future.

If you would like to know more about this, please speak to our treasurer or one of the wardens, or pick up a leaflet from the noticeboards in the north aisle.



Silk Brass Concert

Silk Brass

29th June

As part of the 1261 Festival there will also be a Silk Brass Concert in St Michael's on the Saturday evening.

Join us for *Worship*



Sunday 16th June
Third Sunday after Trinity
Family Communion

Leader and Speaker: Rev'd 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 7.30 am in church
Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Face-
book

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

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

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

Next taking place on Wednesday 26th June

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 June: Holy Communion
27th June: Morning Prayer

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

Compline/Night Prayer

Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm
Join Zoom Meeting;

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?
pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476

Passcode: compline



Share your Photos with
St Mike's Church Family!

WhatsApp

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

How to contact
the office...



Phone: Landline: 01625 421984

Email addresses:

- **Isobel** clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry issues
- **Elaine** office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk for bookings and building matters
- **Bulletin/Newsletter** stmikesnotices@gmail.com
- **Printing** 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

Contemplative Prayer

Every Friday at 9:20am in the Savage Chapel lasting
half an hour. An opportunity for quiet prayer usually
followed by coffee/tea and a chat.



**Donating to St
Michael's**

has become easier!
Scan this QR Code or
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in the Welcome Area



Email any prayer requests [here](#)

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

