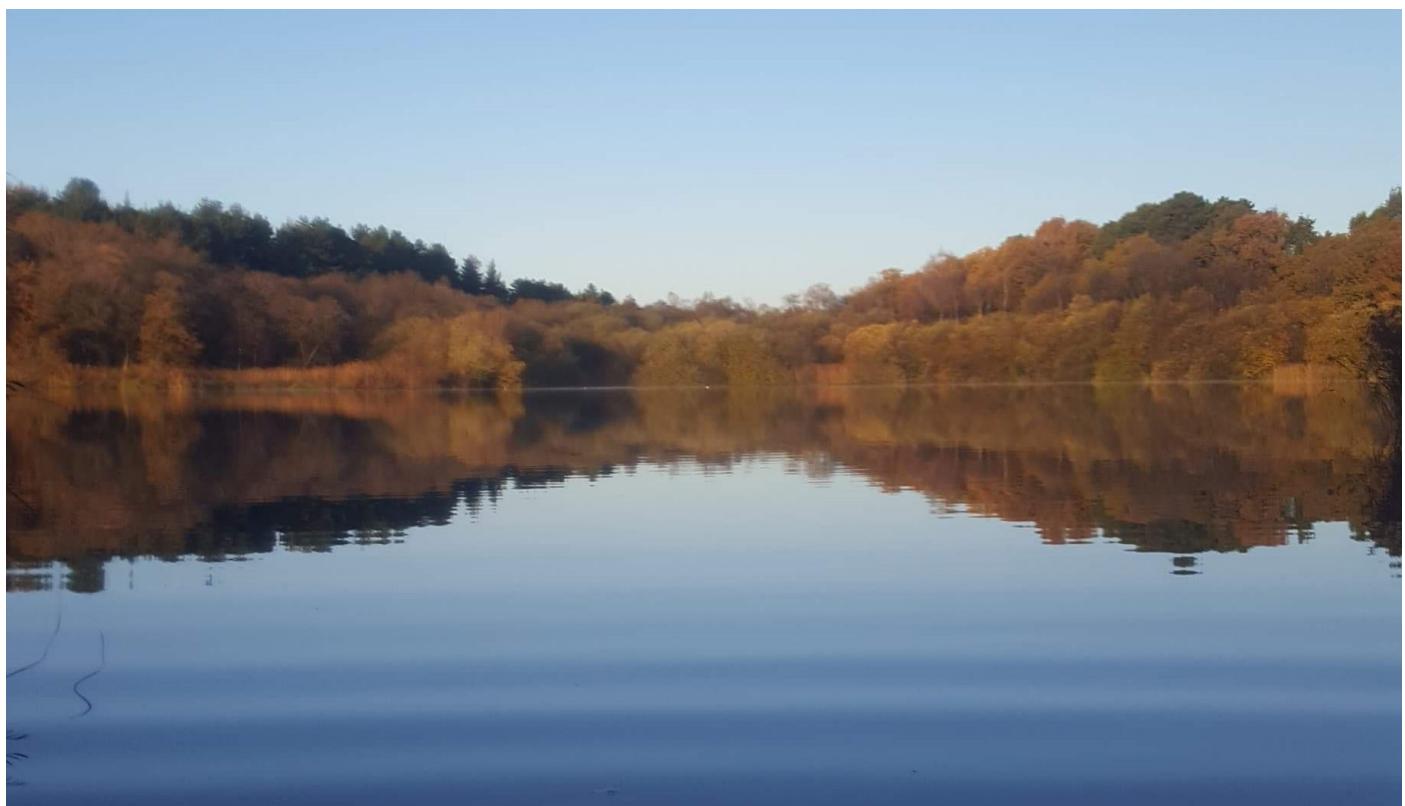


CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

FREE



Autumn turning to winter brings the most stunning of scenes. An early morning cold water swim at Hatchmere near Delamere. Certainly wakes everything up!

Poems, articles and stories
From the Clergy
WHAM
Events and Services across the Team



Welcome to Macclesfield Team Ministry

Macclesfield Team Ministry is a family of four churches located in the town and part of the Church of England. We are different communities of people seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and trying to bring wholeness and healing. This magazine tells some of the stories from the people of these communities.



All Saints
Brough Street West
Macclesfield
SK11 8EL

www.allsaintschurchmacclesfield.weebly.com

St Barnabas
Lyme Avenue
Macclesfield
SK11 7RS

facebook.com/stbarnabaschurchmacc/

St Peter's
Windmill Street
Macclesfield
SK11 7HS

www.stpetersmacc.org/

St Michael & All Angels
Market Place
Macclesfield
SK10 1DY

www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk/

The Staff Team Key Contacts

Team Rector: Revd Martin Stephens
01625 426110
teamrector.macc@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Andy Williams
01625 432919
teamvicar.macc@gmail.com

Curate: Revd Karen Brady
07419 820864
revkarenbrady@gmail.com

PA to the Clergy: Sue Reid
clergypa@maccteam.org.uk
Macclesfield Team Office
St Michael & All Angels Church
Market Place
Macclesfield SK10 1DY
01625 421984 (24 hour machine)

ADMINISTRATORS:

St Michael's: Sue Reid 01625 421984
office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
St Peter's: Jann Thorpe
01625 500544
coordinator@stpetersmacc.org

WEEKLY NOTICE SHEETS:

All Saints: allsaintsnottices@gmail.com

St Barnabas:
glenys.hibbert@ntlworld.com

St Michael's:
stmikesnotices@gmail.com
St Peter's:
coordinator@stpetersmacc.org

CHURCH OR HALL BOOKINGS

All Saints:
Jim Donaldson 01625 619050
jacjim@ntlworld.com

St Barnabas:
Jonathan Aiken 07515 410170
jonathanstewartaiken@gmail.com

St Michael's

Sue Reid: 01625 421984
office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

St Peter's

Mike Boardman: 01625 428646

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATORS:

All Saints: Chris Campbell-Kelly 01625 261373

St Barnabas: Jayne Shaw

St Michael's: Paul Spedding 01625 614819 & Chris Bentley

St Peter's: Jann Thorpe 01625 5005441

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Pauline Butterfield 01928 718834 ext 221
pauline.butterfield@chester.anglican.org

From the Clergy...

The Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. (John 1:14, NLT)

The account of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope and of love, yet what is a time to celebrate the birth of a Saviour has turned into a season of stress, jammed car parks and shopping lists. When it's over, many are left with presents to return, debts to pay off and perhaps an empty feeling of having missed something important. Is this really what Jesus would have us fall into as we celebrate His birth? So easily we can fall into the commercial trap; here are some ideas to avoid doing just that...

Worship fully. Christmas begins and ends with Jesus. It's a season when we are called to lay down our burdens and worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns and a king is celebrated with each breath. As we journey through Advent towards Christmas don't just go through the motions – enter the season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest. We have a wide range of different opportunities in all four churches to worship throughout December.

Spend Less. The figures for the amount we as a nation spend at Christmas are staggering. How often have you spent money on a gift for no other reason than obligation, or received one for no other reason? Why not consider buying one less gift, or spending less on all your gifts and giving the saving or a gift to your favourite charity.

Give more. God's gift to us is a relationship built on love. Time is a real gift and cannot be found in The Grosvenor Centre – time to make a gift for someone; time to write a letter; time to play with the (grand)children; time to bake; time to spend with others. Perhaps 'time' is a gift which would be appreciated more than a 'wrapped' present.

Love all. Jesus loved in ways never imagined before – though rich He became poor, to love the poor, the forgotten and the overlooked. Consider what you can do to love more those who find themselves on the margins, affected by cuts, or in desperate need of love.

As we journey through Advent I wish you all a happy, fulfilled and blessed Christmas, and a great 2020.

~ Rev Martin Stephens



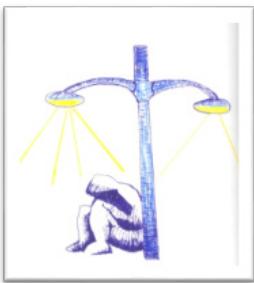
Whether the coming holidays
bring you joy or make you feel lonely...
fill you with memories or delight
or bring up pasts you'd prefer to forget...
whether you will move through the motions
in a cloud of grief,
or clenching your teeth with tension,
or being renewed by the joy they provide
whether you practice impossible patience
or unleash your holy rage...
whether none of these words ring true
or a little bit of all of them do,
may the Sacred be your companion -
Love with you, for you, within you.

*Feel whatever you need to feel this season. We do not all live the same truths.
But we can all be respectful of others experiences and learn from the
perspectives of those who are different.*

~ an anonymous contribution



Macclesfield Winter Nightshelter (WHAM)



WHAM provides accommodation and refreshment over winter weekends, for men who would otherwise be sleeping rough in our town. “Night-shelters are to stop people dying; hostels are to prepare people for living on their own”.

Macclesfield churches work together to:

- Provide cover over Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, and Bank Holidays, providing basic evening meals and breakfast each day.
- The location moves around six town centre churches, who provide shelter for a weekend at a time, for six – eight people.
- We work closely with Citizens Advice, Cheshire East Rough Sleepers Team, Cheshire Police, Street Angels to support guests.

While this is only an initial approach to the problem the Shelter covers the worst of the winter weather and the times when least assistance is readily available elsewhere and therefore the danger of serious illness or death is the greatest.

We need YOU!!!

Could YOU volunteer? Teams of volunteers cover three shifts each night (7.30-10.30pm, 10.30pm-6.30am; 6.30-8am), each shift under the guidance of a trained and experienced shift leader. Training is offered for all volunteers.

What does it involve? Welcome our guests, help with meals and drinks, and above all, be company and listen to their stories. Depending on the time of your shift you may be helping to set up or clear away.

This year training for new volunteers will all sessions at URC (Townley St entrance) on following dates:

Saturday 7th December 2019	10.00am-12.00pm
Friday 13th December 2019	6.30-8.30pm
Friday 10th January 2020	6.30-8.30pm
Saturday 11th January 2020	10.00am-12.00pm

If you are an experienced volunteer and a member of a HOPE church – have you considered training to be a Shift Leader? Shift Leader training will be for 1 hour following the above training sessions (please come to the volunteer session in addition to the Shift Leader training)

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, on 07874 852762 maccnightshelter@gmail.com or the WHAM coordinator for your church (Rachel Mayers for team churches) – or just turn up to a training session.

And Jesus concluded, “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?” The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.” [Luke 10:36,37]

Donations

What WHAM most needs is volunteers. However if you wish to make donations or collect items, we would welcome gifts of new underwear (male boxer shorts or female), socks (male and female), sanitary products, and gloves. We have plenty of toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste and do not keep stocks of other clothing.

Any financial gifts will be used to replenish our supplies of the above.

Congratulations on your confirmation!

On Sunday 17th November, Caroline, Lindsey and Connor were celebrated and welcomed during our Team confirmation service. Welcome guys; it was wonderful to see your smiling faces and be part of our story.



Adult Baptism at All Saints

Sunday 17th of November was a celebration time of worship at All Saints. During our morning worship an adult was baptized using an improvised pool. Abigail, who was baptized, married her husband Steve in St Michael's church last year with myself taking the service. Since then they have both become regular members of All Saints' Church and welcomed into its loving community. It was a privilege to share in their wedding day and get to know them before and after their wedding. The last year has been one of ups and downs for this young couple but they have become faithful members of All Saints. Part of this has been helping Abigail explore what the Christian faith mean, answering lots of questions, and sharing life with her and Steve.

This all came together when Abigail asked to be baptized. Members of her family together with the All Saints family joined in the celebration of new faith. It was a real time of joy for all who have come to know and love Abigail over the last year or so.

Hopefully it won't be the last time the paddling pool is used in this way ...

Andy Williams

Angels

Some of our AWESOME people at St Barnabas have been lovingly knitting these beautiful little Angels over the past few weeks. These angels will be winging there way to the streets around St Barnabas during December. If you find one take it home with you, hang on your tree and enjoy x



St Michael's Dales Way Pilgrimage



The Dales Way is a beautiful 80 mile footpath running from Ilkley in Yorkshire along Wharfedale and Dentdale to Bowness-on-Windermere in Cumbria, passing through both the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks.

Seventeen "pilgrims" from St Michael's church, joined by two day-trippers, enjoyed a week of (mostly) lovely September sunshine and good company. A full day's walking averaged about twelve miles, with a cunning plan to use the hired mini-bus to enable some of the group to partake in a lesser distance each day – typically six miles. We ended every day's walking with a short reflective service of worship in a church (a

number of which were also dedicated to St. Michael) or occasionally in the open air. We'll never know what the Cumbria County Council workers repairing the bridge at Crook of Lune made of a group of people gathering round for a hymn and a quiet prayer but they were very welcoming and explained the repairs on the bridge and took photos for us. We then returned to our splendid accommodation at Hill Top Farm near Bainbridge where a different couple each evening did battle with the AGA to cook dinner. It is no mean feat to feed seventeen hungry people when you don't know how the oven works but despite the stress six delicious, healthy, and varied meals were

produced. The day wound up with a period of reflection and thanksgiving before retiring to bed (or to the jigsaw for those who still had energy to spare).

Thank you to Paul Simms, Paul Spedding, Taffy Davies and Mike Strutt who put in many arduous hours in the pub to plan the pilgrimage. A huge vote of thanks is also due to the mini-bus drivers, Taffy, Mike and Paul Simms who ferried us to and fro daily and who sacrificed part of their walk each day to ensure the bus was always in the right place and to make it all work for the half-day walkers.

~Helen Foster & Hilary Halliwell



Shrewsbury Abbey Choral Evensong

On September 28th our choir at St Michael's was invited to sing in the Choral Evensong service at Shrewsbury Abbey. For those of us on the coach with Hilary looking after us, we set off at 10am and had a very helpful driver. On our arrival, via the scenic route, we had some time to look around Shrewsbury and have lunch.

The service commenced at 3pm in the age old abbey, which has seen worship through the centuries and certainly had a feeling of peace and tranquillity. As always the choir's singing was glorious and the anthem of 'I was glad' written by Hubert Parry to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward 7th and based on Psalm 122, was magnificent. I was certainly glad to be there with friends of St Michael's.

Once again thank you Karen and each of the choristers, resplendent in red, for their hard work, dedication and beautiful singing. It really was a day to remember.

Many thanks to Hilary for arranging the transport and making it possible. On a personal note I was able to find my old school by the River Severn. Last seen some 66 years ago and back down memory lane and another bonus. Thank you everyone.

~ Norma Stanway.



Welcome Sharon & Doran to St Michael's Choir

Sharon and Doran receiving their surplice from Karen Gedd and Mike Strutt at Choral Evensong on 27th October at St Michael's. This recognises they are now full members of St Michael's Choir. Sharon and Doran joined the choir for the service at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Sunday wearing their new surplices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Carols around the Crib

Saturday 7th December, 1pm
Market Place, Macclesfield



All are very welcome – come and join us -
singing or listening.

Organised by St Alban's Catholic Church, Chester Road, Macclesfield

Silk Brass

Christmas Concert
Carols and festive music

St. Michael's Parish Church,
Market Place, Macclesfield

Saturday 21st December 7.30pm

£8 U16 - Free including refreshments

Tickets available from:
Tourist Information, Town Hall
On the door on the night
Online: priorbooking.com/silkbrass
Ben Bradley on 07841 820 059

www.silkbrassband.co.uk Reg.d Charity No.:1148885

National Foundation for Youth Music

CRE8 MUSIC PRESENTS

WINTER YOUTH MUSIC CONCERT

Date: Sunday 15th December 2019
Time: 6pm - 8pm
Venue: St Michael's Church, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

FREE ENTRY
(Donations welcome)

Young people involved with Cre8 Music continue to challenge and inspire us with their performances. Come along and discover the wonderful community spirit that flows through this project. A mix of modern songs, solos, duets and bands. These young people will show you their journey from beginners to multi-talented musicians.

The Town Carol Service

for all who live and work in our Town Centre Community

Join us at 7.30pm
Thursday 19th December 2019
St Michael & All Angels Church

Silk Brass Band & St Michael's Church Choir

St Michael & All Angels, Market Place, Macclesfield SK10 1DY
T: 01625 421984 W: stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

[f/stmichaelsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmacclesfield)

The Big Give!

Distributing fresh food on Christmas Eve



We receive the surplus fresh food donated by Aldi once the store closes on Christmas Eve... we then gather as a team and mobilise 'THE BIG GIVE' to distribute fresh food to families and individuals on the Moss Estate and wider across Macclesfield.

We're looking for people willing to volunteer some of their time on Christmas Eve to help with sorting and distributing food and gifts.

If you're able to donate your time on Christmas Eve from 5.30pm onwards to 'Cre8's BIG GIVE' we would be very grateful, as will the families and individuals receiving gifts on Christmas Eve. It's a wonderful way to spend the night before Christmas and share what we have.

Please do get in touch with Katy if you'd like to help or more information:
katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org or 01625 503740

God is fire

God is fire,
 God is light,
 God is love,
 Puts sin to flight,

God is power,
 God is glory,
 God is holy,
 This is His story,

From age to age the same,
 No beginning or an ending,
 Suffering my cruel taunts,
 A love that's never ending,

Shall I fear His anger
 For my unkind unbelief?
 Thank God He took this sin
 Into His body full of grief?

~ Richard Muirhead

Ludow Beer Trail



Back in October a group of gents from All Saints with friends took a combination of bus and rail together to visit Ludlow. Various pubs were visited and lunch enjoyed together. Some of us had a tour of the Ludlow brewery, cheese shops and stalls were inspected but the focus of the day was on a gentle shared fellowship - oh yes and beer (though other drinks were available!). Further excursions are planned!

Bible Banks come to Macclesfield

What's a Bible Bank you may ask? We are all, sadly, too aware of what a Foodbank is. We know that there are people that because of a variety of reasons are materially poor or struggling in some way and can't make ends meet. Going to a Foodbank is a way of them being able to afford some other life essentials if they can get food to feed themselves and their family.

There is also a different poverty in our communities - spiritual poverty. Many people no longer know what is in the Bible, often not knowing the basic stories many of us will have grown up with: Christmas; Good Friday and Easter; Jesus' parables etc. Well to help All Saints' and St Barnabas' Churches have partnered with The Black Country Mission to set up a Bible Bank in each church entrance. The idea is simple; we have a bookcase full of Bibles, anyone who wants one can just take one free of charge - no questions asked. We hope that this will bless people with a knowledge of and a thirst for the word of God - and maybe they will come back asking questions and wanting to know more.

For more information you can check out the website: <http://blackcountrymission.com/bible-bank.html>

~ Rev Andy Williams



OUR SERVICES

	All Saints 9.30am	St Barnabas 11.15am	St Michael's 11am	St Peter's 9.30am
1st Sunday	Informal Worship	Morning Praise	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Praise	Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday	Morning Prayer	Morning Praise	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer (or Treacle Service*)	Worship for All
5th Sunday	Informal Worship	Morning Praise	Treacle Service (Informal Worship)	No Service

*In a 5 Sunday month at St Michael's, the Treacle Market Service will be on the 5th Sunday and the 4th Sunday would be Morning Prayer.

Storytelling Service



at St Michael's - 9.30am every Sunday

Weekly service for families with babies and children.

Includes Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Choral Evensong



at St Michael's 6.30pm 2nd Sundays

Contemplative Prayer



at St Michael's - 9.10am every Friday

Silent prayer (approx. 30 mins) in the Savage Chapel

HOSPITAL SERVICES

at St Luke's Chapel,
Macclesfield Hospital, 11am
10th November

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

Alternative Church



at St Barnabas Church
10am every 1st Sunday
*Exploring together our stories.
Good conversation around a brew.*

Praise Evening



at All Saints
6.30pm every 3rd Sunday
An hour of modern worship with biblical reflection and prayer.



Christmas at St Michael's

Christingle Service

4.00pm Sunday 8th December

Town Carol Service

7.30pm Thursday 19th December

Nativity

10.30pm Sunday 22nd December

Carols by Candlelight

6.30pm Sunday 22nd December

Crib Service

4.00pm Christmas Eve

Midnight Communion

11.30pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Communion

10.30am Christmas Day

St Michael & All Angels, Market Place, Macclesfield SK10 1DY
T: 01625 421984 W: smichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

[smichaelsmacclesfield](#)

St Barnabas' Church Macclesfield

A warm welcome awaits you this Christmas.
Come and share in the joy.

Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December at 11.15 am

Come to hear the traditional story of Christmas
and join in some familiar carols.

Family Nativity

Tuesday 24th December at 3.00 pm

Come dressed up at your favourite Nativity
character to take part in retelling the story with
actions and songs. All ages are welcome.

Christmas Communion

Wednesday 25th December at 10.30 am

We come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus
with songs, Bible stories and communion.

[Find us at Lyme Avenue SK11 7RS](#)

achurchnearyou.com/church/12815/

[f @stbarnabaschurchmacc](#)



All Saints' Church Macclesfield

A warm welcome awaits you this Christmas.

Come and share in the joy.



Messy Church

Saturday 14th December from 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Fun, crafts, stories and food for all the family.

Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December at 9.30 am

Come to hear the traditional story of Christmas
and join in some familiar carols.

Christmas Communion

Tuesday 24th December at 9.00 pm

We come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with songs,
Bible stories and communion.

You are welcome to come along from 8.15 pm
for mulled wine and other refreshments.



[Find us at Brough Street West SK11 8EL](#)

allsaintschurchmacclesfield.weebly.com

[f @allsaintschurchmacclesfield](#) [@allsaintsmacclesfieldmessychurch](#)

A LIGHT HAS DAWNED

Christmas at St Peter's

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER 6pm

CAROL SERVICE

An evening of readings and carols for everyone, with
mulled wine and mince pies. Service starts 6.30pm

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER 4PM

FAMILY CRIB SERVICE

The Posada (travelling crib) returns to church

CHRISTMAS DAY 10AM

CHRISTMAS MORNING CELEBRATION

Short Family Communion



ST PETER'S CHURCH
BUILDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY