

CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

FEBRUARY 2020

FREE



Everyone can be part of the Nativity Story at St Mikes. Over 30 different parts with a custom script from the multi-talented Lynn Spedding!

February & Lent

Opening our doors to the community

The Cre8 Big Give

The Jesse Tree & Roots Group

Events and Services across the Team



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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

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Market Place
Macclesfield SK10 1DY
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St Peter's

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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

February

“For many February is the bleakest month so it may be no coincidence that it is packed with festivals like Candlemas (Jesus being the light to all peoples), St Valentines Day and Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday. It is the last month of winter and the earth is just beginning to re-awaken. It is not so spring-like that it brightens the spirits, but snowdrops and crocuses appear at the bottom of trees reminding us that it is beginning and spring will happen.

...So the themes of February are manifold and paradoxical. We are still in the darkness, still waiting on rumours and promises of light.... It is a month of preparation for that which is to come, a month that looks forward, with hope, to the birth of spring, but for now things remain hidden.”

“Ash Wednesday (26th February 2020) opens the forty days of Lent when people traditionally forego some pleasure to help identify with the self-discipline of Christ. In the wilderness he came face to face with himself. Through Lenten self-examination, we are asked to do the same and so face our own mortality. The ashes remind us that death is the great equaliser; we stand together. From the dormancy of winter, both spring and our hearts are awakened to the life of God, which we came from, on which we depend, and on whom we shall return.”

- Taken from ‘The Celtic Wheel of the Year’ by Tess Ward

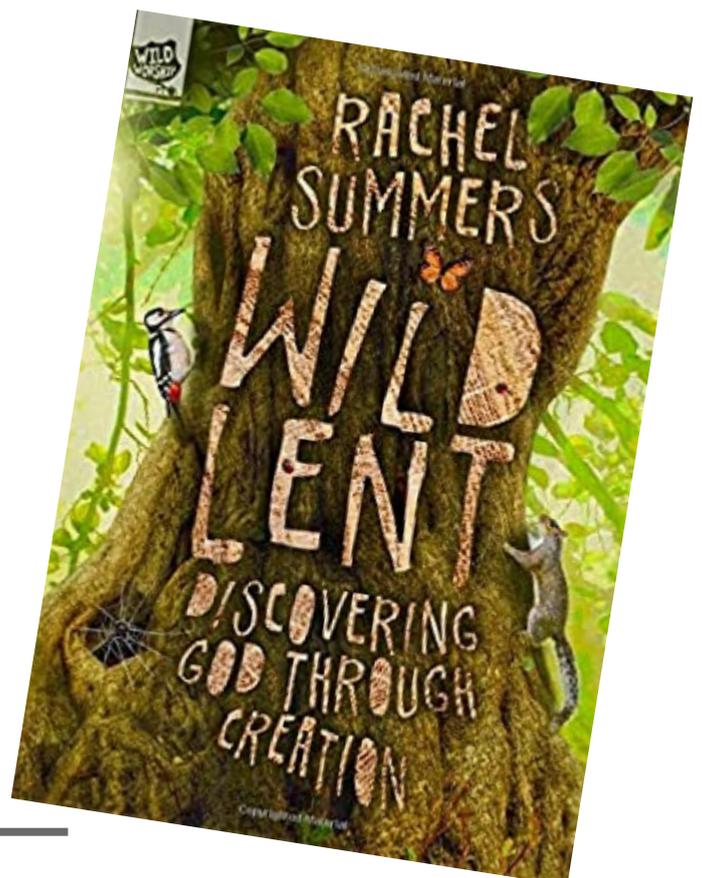


Wild Lent

During Advent a small group of us got together for a few ‘wild themed’ reflective activities. We are going to do a similar thing during Lent.

If anyone is interested in joining some wild, outdoorsy, creative activities loosely based around Rachel Summers Book ‘Wild Lent: Discovering God through Creation’, then get in touch with Katy (katy.wardle@gmail.com) or Tricia (tricia.atherton@gmail.com)

Note - some cold water swims/dips may be involved - but not compulsory!



Opening our Doors to the Community of Macclesfield

Between 1st and 21st December (three weeks) St Michael's Church hosted 16 major events with external hirers.

Three of these events were first time new hirers and we were particularly thrilled to be able to host The Christie's fundraising concert for the new cancer care unit at Macclesfield Hospital. Our hirers included local schools: Bollinbrook, Park Royal Primary, King's and Tytherington High School; charities: Cre8 and ROAR; East Cheshire Hospice Light Up a Life Service; The Christies' fundraising concert; Silk Brass and KEMs concerts; Election Hustings and a local singing teacher's showcase concert for her pupils.

In this same period, we had our seven regular hirers, including counselling groups, training courses for unemployed people, Youth Macctastic, a baby sensory class, our daily café open between 10.30am and 12.30pm Monday to Saturday, a Christmas afternoon tea, a funeral and seven Advent and Christmas Services. It was indeed a jam-packed schedule and we had such a diverse range of offerings.

We estimate in the month of December we must have welcomed into church around 10,000 people, both young and old. It's always a special time to be in church at Christmas and to see the building so full of life and I love working in a church that has its doors open to our local community for all these events and services. It does indeed at times put some strain and wear and tear on the building and, sometimes the people, but it is very much at the heart of our mission and ministry in this church and we should indeed celebrate what we have achieved.

Of course, none of this could happen without the time and talents freely given by many of our amazing church members. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with these events: to those who helped move the platform and the eagle lectern, the stewards for each event, the cleaners and flower arrangers who make the church look at its absolute best, the volunteers who put the trees up and decorated them, our café volunteers providing



a smile and a brew for visitors, those who talk to visitors about our church history and those who have designed our church trails, the key holders, the Start the Week Team, the tech team who advise on the sound desk and, of course, our hirers who work with us and their volunteers and staff. Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our church doors open to the Market Place and beyond.

The feedback from our guests is always positive and this year we have particularly asked some of these hirers to give us more extensive feedback to help us improve as we consider our vision for our mission and ministry in the next 5-10 years and how our building best helps us to deliver this.

Thank you

Sue Reid, Church Co-ordinator

VOLUNTEERING

If you are interested in volunteering as a steward for events in church, or being on the platform moving team, please do come and speak to me (office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk). The more volunteers we have, the more we can share the load with each other.

I am planning a training event in May before we embark on what is another busy time for us as a church: Barnaby, taking place this year between 18th and 28th June – and which this time marks ten years since Barnaby came into being.



Cre8's Big Give - Christmas Eve 2019

The Big Give on Christmas Eve collected and distributed surplus, unwanted food from supermarkets, retailers, schools, charities and other organisations and individuals. We were also able to take donated presents, toiletries and other essentials. On the night we mobilised a team of around 70 volunteers from across the Macclesfield area to collect, sort, pack and then deliver hampers to families and households in need over the Christmas period. We were overwhelmed by the amount of people wanting to help out on Christmas Eve!



In total we delivered hampers to 124 households across the whole Macclesfield area, which we estimate to cover around 400 people. A fantastic achievement in just over 3 hours. The event had a real Christmas spirit and it was great to have people from all different backgrounds helping out to get the food out to those that needed it.



A few of the comments we had back from recipients on the night...

- We just have a loaf of bread and some milk and butter that is all no Christmas meal or anything. Struggling so much oh really thank you so much! Thankyou merry christmas
- Amazing box of goods highly appreciated you do amazing stuff for the community around the estate especially this time of year thanks again. Hope you have a merry Christmas
- Ok you did it you made me cry thank you my grand daughters loved there presents and my oh my my sister was breaking her heart thank you. You've given us a xmas we all thought we would never have xxxx
- Thank you so very much xxx Merry Christmas and such a lovely lady delivered the hamper with gifts for myself and my boy x so very kind

Thankyou to everyone who came along and helped with the 'organised chaos'!

ST MICHAELS ELECTORAL ROLL

St Michael's Electoral Roll is to be revised in time for the APCM. Blank forms are available on the table to the right of the Narthex. If you wish your name and address to be added or amended please fill in a form and put it in the folder labelled "Electoral Roll Forms" by 29th March. If you know of any other changes please inform me via the Team Office. Many thanks. David Budgett, ER Officer.

Prayer Event for the Diocese for the next Bishop of Chester

At the invitation of Bishop Keith, St Michael's is hosting a prayer meeting, led by Archdeacon Ian Bishop, on Thursday 12th March from 2pm to 3pm. For the first time in nearly a quarter of a century, the Church of England is in the process of appointing the next Bishop of Chester. During this period of change and transition for the diocese, Bishop Keith is inviting us all to pray with him, for the diocese, the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), and the person God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chester. In the week before the CNC is due to meet for the final time, join with others from around the diocese to pray for the people tasked with appointing the next Bishop of Chester.

Contact comms@chester.anglican.org or book through Eventbrite via the Chester Diocese website or telephone 01928 718834

Praying for the diocese

A short meeting to gather and pray for the diocese, the Crown Nominations Commission, and the person God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chester.



Karen's new move



From Martin Stephens, Team Rector
It has been known that Karen's time with us as curate in Macclesfield would be coming to an end this summer.

I am delighted to announce that, subject to the completion of legal formalities, Revd Karen Brady has been appointed to be the next Vicar of

St Michael and All Angels' Church, Runcorn, still within Chester Diocese.

Exactly when Karen will leave Macclesfield and formally start in Runcorn is being finalised – we'll let you know before long – but we wanted to let you know Karen's good news as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please pray for Karen; particularly as she begins her transition from Curate to Vicar and her move from Macclesfield to Runcorn. Please also pray for the people of St Michael's, Runcorn, as they prepare to welcome Karen as their new Vicar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Macclesfield Team Ministry - Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Conversations

7-8.30pm on Monday 10th February at St Michaels Church. Refreshments from 6.45pm.

As members of the Churches in the Macclesfield Team will be aware from the recent annual stewardship review letter from the Team Treasurer, our four churches are facing challenging times. Like many other churches, our congregations are getting older and reducing in size. As a result, we have reached the point where income across the Team no longer covers ongoing expenditure. Whilst this raises serious questions, it should not be a source of anxiety because we have significant reserves (money in the bank) which will cover us for the next 3 or 4 years. However, it is important to reflect on the issues, and to talk about them as we plan our future ministry and mission.

The starting point is that members of our Churches are properly informed about our financial situation. We must then consider and explore the options open to us, and plan how we should respond. For this purpose and to start a broader conversation, an open meeting will be held on Monday 10th February from 7-8.30pm at St Michaels. This is open to all members of our Team Churches - please come along and encourage others to do so as well. All members of PCCs are encouraged to attend if they can.

It would be helpful to know how many are coming and also that we can circulate some information in advance. So please sign up on a list in your church or email/contact one of the four Treasurers:

John Phillipson (St Peter's)	01625 428874	jhphillipson@gmail.com
Mike Strutt (St Mikes)	01625 617678	mjstrutt@btinternet.com
Philip Marsh (All Saints)	01625 471139	philmar32@gmail.com
Cliff Mills (St Barnabas)	01625 425100	cliff.mills1@ntlworld.com

St Michael's Vision Day - Saturday 29th February

"How can we be Salt & Light"

If you are a member of St Michael's Church in any way, join us to:

Be Grateful

- For all God is doing through us

Be Inspired

- What more could we become as the Town Centre Church?

Be Creative

- Be part of the next steps on the journey

What will happen? Presentations, group activities, worship – and lunch provided!

Where? St Michael's Church, in the Marketplace

Time? 10am – 4pm (refreshments from 9.30am)

MUSIC @ MIKES

The programme of lunchtime concerts at St. Michael's continues with an eclectic mix of aspiring young and more experienced musicians; but they are all very talented and enthusiastic. The concerts start at 1.15pm and are followed at 1.45pm by light refreshments; and they are free! Donations to the East Cheshire Hospice and St. Michael's are appreciated.

January	Thursday 30th	David Smith (baritone) plus accompanist
February	Thursday 6th	Ivan Hovorun (pianist)
	Friday 14th	King's School
	Friday 21st*	Laura Embrey (violin)
	Friday 28th	Rhiannon Ashley (soprano – RNCM)
March	Thursday 5th	All Hallows Catholic College
	Friday 13th	King's School
	Friday 27th	Innsaei String Quartet (RNCM)

*An additional ticketed event; adults £7, students £5 and under-12s free:



Everyone can be part of the nativity story: St Michael's Nativity 2019

With a cast of 30, the St Michael's Nativity play featured familiar characters: Mary and Joseph (of course – though perhaps a little older than usual) - shepherds, a scary Herod and several wise men bearing gifts. There were surprises: the Angels Gabriel ...and a cracker? Holly and Ivy? an Advent Calendar? Father Christmas and a harassed Christmas shopper..... among others.

Everyone could join in as a shepherd, an angel or a King.

The script had something for everyone to ponder and also to enjoy the fun. Thank you Lynne for writing and directing an errant cast who didn't learn their lines!



The Jesse Tree

'A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots.' Isaiah 11.1

The 11.00 Roots group at St. Michael's created a Jesse Tree as part of their Advent activities. Pictures representing the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Moses and the Prophets, and John the Baptist were hung from the branches – with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus to be added later.

The first Jesse trees appeared about 1,000 years ago. Jesse was the father of King David and this prophecy says that the Messiah would come from

David's family. Churches today can use the Jesse tree as a powerful illustration of the history of our faith especially during Advent when we look forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas. It works by having a simple bare tree in church, and adding homemade symbols each week during the service. The symbols are reminders of people in the Bible's story of God's love for the world.

The Roots group welcomes all children of school age, and meets on most Sundays except the last of the month



Prayer for Healing

For many years there has been a monthly lunchtime service of prayer for healing taking place in the Savage Chapel at St Michael's. Each month a committed group of church friends has offered prayer for individuals who attended and prayed through the large number of cards placed by visitors to the chapel.

From the beginning of 2020, however, we have now stopped these as we seek to explore praying for healing in different ways. One way we intend to develop this is to include prayer for healing within our regular Sunday services, and to offer prayer ministry during services of Holy Communion, for example. The Prayer Cards will continue to be offered to God at our midweek Communion services.

I am extremely grateful to the teams of volunteers over the years who have led and supported this lunchtime service, and want to express my thanks to Barbara Taylor, Grace Edgar, Fran Hiles, Sheila Muirhead and Stephen Gaskell for their recent commitment to this ministry.

Martin Stephens

Older Persons and Carers Christmas Party

St Barnabas, Cre8 and the Carer's Hub held their second joint annual Older Persons & Carers Christmas Party at beginning of December which was a huge success. It was organised in partnership with the Town Council, the Carers Hub, St Barnabas's Coffee Plus Tea, Cre8 and Space4Autism. We had over 80 people come along. Everyone enjoyed some festive food, a tombola, a raffle, bingo, and the highlight for many - The Chordiality Choir. It was a great event getting everybody festive.



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
9th February with Fran Hiles

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
10.30am 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.*

Our Team Tots & Toddler Groups

Peas in a Pod at St P's

A Green Toddler Group at St Peter's

For many years there has been a toddler group at St Peter's on a Wednesday morning called Take a Break. Many of you may have attended it or known people who attended it.

Sadly, we have taken the decision to close Take a Break because we don't really have the people available to run it on a Wednesday morning.

BUT, we DO have a community garden that happens on a MONDAY morning from 10-12 and some of us have been wondering, what if we had a toddler group on a MONDAY, that deliberately fostered links to the gardens? What if children were involved in planting or picking or watering before or after they visited the toddler group in the church itself? What if we did craft activities with natural materials collected from the gardens? What if we helped with the recycling, the composting? What if we were a GREEN toddler group, encouraging the environmentalists of the future?

If you think THAT is something you might like to be involved with, do get in touch with me.

The times are 9.30 to 11am, to allow for a visit to the gardens afterwards if carers wish. The more helpers we have the easier it will be to run. Please spread the word. Jenny. jennyfoxeades@gmail.com 07974 944585



Tots Time
Fridays 10am - 12noon
St Barnabas Church, Lyme Avenue
 £1 entry | 0 - 4 years. Just come along, everyone welcome!
 Lots of space to run around and many toys to play with. Tea and toast provided.
 Every Friday during term time.

Part of the work of St Barnabas Church,
 Lyme Avenue, Macclesfield

Animal graphics created by Pheasant

All Saints Church '0-5 Club' Parent & Toddler Group



WEDNESDAYS

1.30pm to 3.00pm, Contact Shirley Hill on 01625 426874

The 0-5 Club meets on Wednesdays and is attended by between 10 and 20 children. In the hall, each session, we have playtime, craft work, play dough, jigsaws, books and refreshments - a singsong takes place in the church at the beginning of each session. Once or twice termly we have a biblical story from Godly Play using wooden figures.

Our meetings could not take place without the regular support of church members and friends; a big thank you to them all.



St Michael's Toddler Group

Every Thursday during term time we run a Toddler Group for pre-school children in the morning, 10:00am to 11:30am.

The group is aimed at children up to school age with their parents and carers and is a safe, relaxed and fun environment for the babies and children to play and adults to meet.