

Dear Church Member

Over the coming days we will be sending you information to help you pray and worship at home for those with online access, as well as those who don't have access to online materials. Please be assured that our church members who do not have e-mail, or have not given us permission to use e-mail, will receive hard copies hand delivered through their letterbox. If you are aware of any church members not receiving the information you are, please do let the office know office@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk and apologies if you receive any communications twice.

1. Prayer & Worship Resources

At the end of this newsletter are some prayers for use with your children or grandchildren.

A link to prayer resources for use at home

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

There are a range of Christian resources already available online as follows:

- **#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation** - the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This daily audio content is available via the app and daily emails. [Sign up for free](#).
- **The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship** - radio programmes will be using some of the [themes from #LiveLent](#) as part of their broadcasts.
- **Prayer for the day** - each day the Church of England [publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day](#).
- **Smart speakers** – daily prayer and [#LiveLent](#) audio content can be [accessed via our smart speaker apps](#).

2. Macclesfield Library

Also information we have had confirmed from Macclesfield Library:-

- extended library loans until the end of April and halted any new fines incurring.
- increased our loan limit to 30 items and have removed the limit on all renewals. Items can be renewed via telephone and online.

There will be no charge for holds not collected and we will extend the hold collection time to 3 weeks.

We wish to remind customers that they can access books, audiobooks and magazines free of charge from our [eresources section](#)

3. Facebook

If you don't already follow us on Facebook, now is the time to do this [@stmikesmacclesfield](#) Please follow, like and share our posts to get messages out to more people.

4. Karen's Induction Service

Finally, it has been confirmed that Karen's Induction Service will still go ahead on Wednesday 10th June but unfortunately we will not be able to attend. It will be conducted with the two churchwardens, Karen, the Archdeacon and Bishop Keith. We are exploring possibilities of live streaming via Facebook and a recorded version and also some act of solidarity with Karen by praying in our homes at the time of the service. We will keep you informed of this.

5. Thank You

Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to help delivering mail to non-email church members or to give time to keep the church open. If this is something you can help with, please e-mail volunteer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to

assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Amen.

Prayers with Children

Before praying, it is suggested that there is a discussion with the children about the people and places they wish to pray for.

A prayer for when a friend is ill:

Dear God, (name of friend) is ill.

They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.

I'm sad because I miss them.

They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.

Please be close to them.

Please be with the people who are looking after them.

Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.

Amen.

A prayer for the world:

God of love and hope,

you made the world and care for all creation,

but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,

and all who are working to discover the right medicines

to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times,

you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

A prayer at bedtime:

Before the ending of the day,

Creator of the world, we pray

That you, with steadfast love, would keep

Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for (names family or friends who are affected by

Coronavirus) and the people of (country or place which is affected by

Coronavirus).

Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us:

Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.