

If you would like something included in the next prayer letter
please contact a member of the clergy:

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Reading the Bible or leading the prayers in worship

If you would like to consider being one of the people who read the Bible or lead our prayers within worship at St Michael's please talk to Karen or Martin.

Don't worry, we'd train you and let you have a go 'in private' first, but it would be wonderful to expand the team of people who are involved in this.



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

April 2018

Opportunities at St Michael's to join with others in prayer

- Contemplative prayer

Friday mornings at 9.10am, in the Savage Chapel

Also, **monthly on 1st Tuesday & 3rd Sunday evenings**

This month: Sun 15th April – see noticesheet for venues

- Fortnightly prayer meeting

alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in Savage Chapel

This month: Wednesdays 11th & 25th April

- Monthly service of prayer for healing

first Friday, 12:30pm in Savage Chapel

This month: Friday 6th April & 4th May

- House & fellowship groups, for prayer and more!

2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, 2pm-3.30pm at 10 Badger Rd

This month: Mondays 9th & 23rd April

Fortnightly on Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm at The Rectory, 85 Beech Lane

This month: Mondays 9th & 23rd April

1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, 8.00pm-9.30pm at various venues

This month: Thursday 5th and 19th April – contact David B (431 606) for venue

"In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God" (Philippians 4:6)

In prayer we seek to discern God's will for us individually and collectively and to align ourselves with his purpose for us in all aspects of our lives. To that end we bring our concerns, petitions and aspirations before him in prayer and thank him for all the blessings we enjoy, as well as asking his forgiveness for the times we have failed him in things we have done, or not done.

This leaflet has been produced to assist us with our daily prayers; we hope you find it useful. Feel free to use as many, or as few, of the suggestions as you feel is right for you, and of course, add your own.

*O gracious and holy Father,
Give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you,
Patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you,
A heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen*

An Easter Prayer

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the Victory thou over death hast won!*

Praise God!!!! For the possibility of transformed lives for all who ever since have met the risen Jesus; for the possibility of transformed community as Christ lives in his church today; for the possibility of transformed creation as death itself is conquered. As we pray, we pray in this world of new possibility opened up by the resurrection of Jesus. So, may our prayer be marked by a profound sense of wonder and expectation. In the face of the suffering and frustration of a fallen world, God is on the move. Pray that we may always be a people of Easter hope.

Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester

Our World: For those in our world affected by climate change

*Creator God of the wind, waves and the sun:
as the world groans and creaks under the weight of our greed,
help us to tread more lightly.*

*Be with our brothers and sisters across the world who are bearing the brunt
of climate change today. Restore to them your hope, and bring justice where
it is most needed.*

Our Nation

Pray for our politicians and leaders seeking to resolve difficult issues between nations. Pray for clear judgement and understanding.

Our Town: Mental health

Ask God to give wisdom and guidance to those deciding the future of mental health services in the Macclesfield area. Pray that the right decision is reached and that all will work together to find the best possible outcome for those suffering from mental health problems. Pray for teenagers suffering from mental illness and ask God to lift their burdens, calm their anxiety, and quiet their fears. Thank God for those who through paid or voluntary work, give of themselves to support the distressed.

*To the anxious give rest,
To the depressed give light,
To the lonely give companionship.
To the darkened soul bring laughter
And to the damaged mind give hope,
Even in the chaos of not knowing.*

2nd April is Autism Awareness Day; we think especially of those whose personality makes life difficult for them and ask God to open our hearts to give us understanding and patience.

Our Town Centre Community: for HOPE Social Outreach

Give thanks for the volunteers who helped to run the Winter Nightshelter (WHAM); and for support from Citizens Advice, Street Angels, and the Police. Thank God for safety for everyone. Pray for all the guests who sought refuge, that they might find somewhere more permanent to live, and where there are other issues, peace.

Bollinbrook School

Bollinbrook: "a tree firmly planted by streams of water which yields its fruit" Ps 1 v3

Give thanks for the appointment of Miss Lynne leMarinel as the new headteacher (from September). Pray for her as she prepares to leave her current school and gets to know Bollinbrook, and for her previous school as they appoint a new Deputy. Pray for love and patience at both schools amidst an unsettling time.

Pray for all staff and pupils that they might have a refreshing break, especially those who have been involved in the recent inspection and appointment processes.

Our Church Family

We pray for Lucy Evasion and Scott Vernon who will be married in St Michael's on 7th April. May they have a happy, memorable day, and ask God to bless their married life.

Pray for the parents & Godparents of Eleanor Frost, Alfie and Olivia Corrigan, and Thomas Watson, baptised at St Michael's in March; also for Sarah Wilcock who will be baptised on 8th April, and her parents Chris and Katie. Pray for those attending the Baptism preparation evenings at St Michael's on 4th & 11th April, that as they seek baptism for their children they would experience more of God in their lives and relationships. Also for Martin, Karen and Andy as they lead these sessions.

Pray for the families & friends of Maureen Turnock, Elizabeth Trevett and Ernest MacDonald whose funerals were taken by our ministers last month, and for the family and friends of Frances Raval whose funeral was in Leeds. May the words of comfort & hope spoken bring peace to the families.

*Be gentle with the one who walks with grief. If it is you, be gentle with yourself.
Swiftly forgive, walk slowly, pause often. Take time, be gentle, as you walk with
grief.*