

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

As we seek to develop Welcome Teams at St Michael's, you may have the opportunity to be one of the people who read the Bible or lead our prayers in Sunday worship. If you'd like explore this possibility, talk first to Karen or Martin. We'll let you have a go 'in private' first, but it'd be absolutely wonderful to expand our teams of people who are involved in this.

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**
see noticesheet for venues
- Fortnightly prayer meeting
alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in Savage Chapel
This month: Wednesday 12th Dec (only)
- Monthly service of prayer for healing
first Friday, 12:30pm in Savage Chapel
Not this month: next service 4th January
- House & fellowship groups, for prayer and more!
2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, 2pm-3.30pm at 10 Badger Rd
This month: Mondays 3rd and 17th Dec
Monday evenings at the Rectory 85 Beech Lane 7.30pm
Fortnightly. This month 3rd and 17th Dec
1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, 7.30pm-9pm at various venues
This month: Thursdays 6th & 20th December



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels', Macclesfield

December 2018

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.”
(Philippians 4:6f, TLB)

“When we pray, we participate in the most dramatic partnership of creation and recreation. The partnership with God that involves gazing on his creation – on the events of the world he has made – and seeking that they be conformed to his likeness and image. We are changed, and the world is changed, as God allows us, through prayer, to share in his making of the world. We are his partners in making the world, in prayer.” *Justin Welby*

This leaflet is intended to assist us with our daily prayers; may you find yourself in that 'most dramatic partnership' with God.

*Merciful God,
thank you that you invite us to be co-workers with You.
Open our eyes to see You and the signs of Your Kingdom;
enlarge our hearts to love others as You love us,
and give us the privilege of seeing prayers of faith
become stories of hope and transformation around us
through the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For the season of Advent and Christmas:

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' (Mark 1:3)

This season unites people: friends, families, those from the town and those from other places. Pray for our Advent and Christmas services that they may be times of sharing, welcoming and celebrating together. Pray that the love shown to us in Jesus may be realised amongst us as we worship and serve.

Seasonal sadness

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.. (Ps.34:18)

Pray for those for whom this season is particularly sad because their loved ones are no longer here, or because there is real difficulty in the family.

We especially pray for those from our church families who have been bereaved this past year.

Pray that God will be close to them and bring them His light, maybe in unexpected ways or through other people.

Just Wondering? Course:

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

This is our opportunity to invite people, perhaps those who have come into church for a Christmas event, to consider the Christian faith afresh. The course is being led by church members and is an informal and interactive way to discuss, think about and consider the Christian faith. Pray for courage to invite people to attend, and pray that they will be blessed in their journeying.

Our Church in the Community:

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Give thanks and pray for the efforts being made to help those who are most vulnerable in our community this winter. Pray for the WHAM (Winter Hope Accommodation in Macclesfield) night shelter. This involves several churches and many, many volunteers. Pray for their energy, compassion and resourcefulness as they engage with people who are homeless this winter.

A further extension of this work is to provide, at short notice, emergency overnight accommodation in the United Reformed Church when the temperature is predicted to drop below zero degrees for 3 consecutive days. This is known as SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol). This will be the first year the churches have offered this.

Pray for the administration of this, for the volunteers as they give of their time sacrificially in this way, and for those people (men and women) for whom this could literally be a life-saver.

Our town and community;

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you; pray to the Lord on its behalf. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Pray for our town and especially for two areas of recent concern: the Millbrook facility for people struggling with Mental Health difficulties, and for our town centre, since quite a few shops have closed recently.

Pray for those affected when closures happen; pray for people who have feelings of low self-worth or of not belonging, and for all who suffer from the effects of mental ill-health, including their wider families.

Pray for those who make decisions which affect the lives of thousands of people. Ask God to give them compassion, wisdom and inspiration.

Our Church Family:

Pray for those who have or will be sharing special times in our church:

- Ariana Dejeva being baptised on 9th December
- Sean & Rachael Seddon who got married on 23rd November
- The families of Gordon Varney, Madeline Johnson & Amy Toole (amongst others) whose funerals have recently or soon will be here.

Our Church Life:

.. that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith (Ephesians 4:12f)

Pray for the initiative to develop Welcome Teams at St Michael's as an intentional means of helping more people find a place of belonging and so grow the church. Pray for the clergy and wardens as they implement this, and for love, grace, energy and enthusiasm for all.