

Have you considered joining with a small number of others (perhaps a prayer partner or forming a prayer triplet) to meet regularly to pray together? If you would like to explore this further, contact Catherine Stephens 01625 426110

Prayer for our church: our vision; our challenges  
Thursdays in the Savage Chapel, 6.30pm

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

- Start the week at St Michael's: church open from 7am to 10am with prayer on the hour and half hour.
- Contemplative prayer **Friday mornings at 9.10am, in the Savage Chapel**  
Also, **monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings**  
*see noticesheet for venues*
- Fortnightly prayer meeting **alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in Savage Chapel** *This month: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March*
- House & fellowship groups, for prayer and more!  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month, 2pm-3.30pm at 10 Badger Rd**  
*This month: Mondays 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March*  
**Fortnightly on Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm at The Rectory, 85 Beech Lane**  
*This month: during Lent we will meet weekly (see below)*  
**1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, 8.00pm-9.30pm at various venues**  
*This month: during Lent we will be meeting weekly (see below)*

### Lent Groups

We will be using the Ruth Valerio book: 'Saying Yes to Life' during Lent. There are opportunities to meet with others to explore this book:

Thursdays 7.30pm at 25 Hightree Drive, Henbury

Mondays 7.30pm at the Rectory

Wednesdays 10.30am at St Michael's

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

Martin Stephens 01625 426 110 teamrector.macc@gmail.com

Karen Brady 07419 820 864 revkarenbrady@gmail.com

Sue Reid 01625 421984 clergypa@maccteam.org.uk



## LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels', Macclesfield

March 2020

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." (John 5.14)*

To pray is to make our hearts ready to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Praying regularly will help us to develop a spiritual rhythm. A discipline of prayer changes the way that we think about our lives, because it creates new habits of heart and mind. Prayer opens us more deeply to the transforming grace of God. We enter into God's presence, allowing the Holy Spirit to pray in us.

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*

## For the season of Lent:

Wonderful God, as we enter this season of Lent, this time of preparation for the mystery of Easter, help us to ready ourselves, so that we can journey with Jesus through the wilderness, to meet with him in resurrection joy.

*Make us ready to fast from criticism and feast on the good we see in others.*

*Make us ready to fast from inactivity and feast on action for justice.*

*Make us ready to fast from greed and feast on giving.*

*Make us ready to fast from conflict and feast on peace making.*

*Make us ready to fast from selfishness and feast on Christ-likeness so that we might be changed to become more like your Son. Amen.*

## Mothering Sunday: 22<sup>nd</sup> March

*We give thanks for our mothers and their care for us, and we also give thanks for those who have been like mothers to us, offering us nurture and care throughout our lives.*

*We celebrate the fact that the roots and pattern for this love are found in you.*

*All love comes from you, so we pray that you will inspire and strengthen us to become mother-like in our concern for others. Amen.*

## Our World: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March World Day of Prayer

The country of Zimbabwe continues its search for peace during its political transition. The change in government continues to bring Zimbabwe to the frontlines of the media. The economy crashed the dreams of many, protests are met with violence, and a massive cyclone has flooded some communities. However, in all moments, they have not lost hope. "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk," said Jesus. Our sisters and brothers from Zimbabwe are taking Jesus' encounter to be a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation. We join them:

*"From our corner of the world, we rise and walk.*

*We are caretakers of God's creation.*

*Help us learn to love one another;*

*Give us wisdom and grace to be peacemakers." Amen.*



## Our Nation: for those coping with floods

*God of compassion, you hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress; accept our prayers for those whose lives are affected by storms and flooding: strengthen them in their hour of need, grant them perseverance and courage to face the future and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives; this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Our Church Family:

*For I will restore health in you and heal you of your wounds Jeremiah 30.17*

Pray for Gordon and Vicky Darlington as he recovers from major heart surgery at Wythenshawe Hospital. For Sue Armstrong who has been in Macclesfield hospital recently and for Doreen Dawson.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46.*

Pray for the families of Claire Smith and Pauline Skelton whose funerals have recently been held here.

*God of love and mercy, embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss.*

*Grant them space to express their tears and hold them close in the coming days and weeks. Amen*

Pray for the families and godparents of Billy Wrigley and Ralphie Ash who are being baptised this month.

Pray for Mark Jeffries who has been worshipping with us but is now returning to his old church family in Congleton expressing his thanks to us for his time here.

## Our Church Life:

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

We give thanks for all our volunteers in our church for the richness and diversity and gifts these individuals bring to the life of our church.

*Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Remind us that we are called to be bearers of Christ's life, light, and love to all we meet. Help us to live in such a way that we draw closer to your vision for us and journey faithfully in your Way.

Our service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March is a service for healing offering the opportunity for prayer for those seeking healing. We pray for Karen and Sue leading this service and for the pray-ers offering prayer support during the service.

*Lord Jesus heal me.*

*Heal in me whatever you see needs healing.*

*Heal me of whatever might separate me from you.*

*Heal my memory, heal my heart.*

*Heal my emotions.*

*Heal my spirit.*

*Heal my body and heal my soul.*

*Lay your healing hands gently upon me*

*and heal me through your love for me. Amen.*