

### For our Church and its mission:

We pray for all those planning Advent and Christmas reflections and worship. For our choir and Karen, our music director, as they meet again to rehearse Advent and Christmas music, with the challenge of social distancing.

Please pray for newly-elected Churchwardens, Rachel Mayers and Paul Simms, as they are "sworn in" at a special online service on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Pray that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to carry out the many and various responsibilities wisely. Pray for our Church Council, especially new members, and for the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November, that discussion may be open and fruitful discussion and wise decisions made. For Lynne Spedding, Lay Chair, as she chairs the meeting. For Mike Strutt, Treasurer as the PCC considers the budget and financial situation for the coming year.

### Our Church Family:

Please pray for the families of those whose funerals will be held in November, and for Lynne Spedding, as she prepares for and conducts the services. The service for Ruth Barber is on 3<sup>rd</sup> November; we pray for her daughter Diane Nockton. Please pray for Linda McCabe and her sons Alistair, Darren and James - Graham's funeral will be on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Also please pray for those who remember loved ones who died at this time in previous years, particularly for Richard Johnson on the anniversary of Madeleine's death on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

*Lord, have mercy on those who mourn  
who feel numb and crushed  
and are filled with the pain of grief,  
whose strength has given up  
You know all our sighing and longings:  
be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

We rejoice that there will be a baptism in St Michael's on 29<sup>th</sup> November– the first for many months. We will welcome Hudson Alcock, and his parents Olivia and Ben.

*Creator God,  
we thank you for the gift of the life of this child,  
May your blessing of peace and joy be with him  
and protect him all of his days.  
We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus.  
Amen.*



## LET US PRAY

### St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

November 2020

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1: 5**

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 prayers.

*O God, lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
lead us from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.  
Amen.*

**If you would like something included in the next prayer letter please contact:**

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### All Saints Day 1<sup>st</sup> November

All Saints season tells me that I belong – I belong to the company of Christ's people that knows none of the barriers that so easily bind us; I belong to a company that joins the past with my present and with a future yet unborn; I belong to a people who will guard and sustain me because we are all united in Christ.

*See, the home of God is among mortals.*

*He will dwell with them;*

*they will be his peoples,*

*and God himself will be with them;*

*he will wipe every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 2: 3-4)*

We stand amongst his saints, held together by his love, and knowing a companionship that is unending. There is a message of hope and a message of concern. Encourage the hurting that we are never alone in our sorrows. Share the burden and share the joy. We belong. May we know that the saints surround us

(Christopher Burkett – Chester Diocese Cycle of Prayer)

### Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November

This year, when Macclesfield's town Remembrance Service cannot be held in its usual form, pray that commitment to work for peace, normally made in the act of worship, will continue and be taken to heart. Pray for our armed forces.

*O God of truth and justice,*

*we hold before you those people*

*who have been injured or who have died in active service.*

*As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,*

*may we put our faith in your future;*

*for you are the source of life, peace and hope,*

*now and for ever.*

*Amen.*

### Advent Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

This year, more than ever, we remember the light, the hope, of Christ in times that seem so dark, devoid of the light of physical companionship with other people. Praise and thank God for the hope He gives us.

### St Andrew's Day 30<sup>th</sup> November

St Andrew responded to Jesus' call to "Follow Me", without question, at once. He left his secure job, his income and his home to follow Jesus in a path which spread the gospel widely but led, eventually, to a painful and humiliating death.

*Almighty God, thank you for raising people to take your Good News to the ends of the earth. We give you praise for their devotion and dedication.*

Pray for those who, in our times are still taking the Good News to those who have not heard it; in our own nation and elsewhere. For those spreading the Gospel by showing Christ's love practically: providing support to the needy through foodbanks, debt counselling, advocacy. For those working with medical teams, supporting the development of sustainable communities, and so much more.

Ask God to help you hear his call for you – and to respond.

### Our Town:

As the colder weather comes, pray for those who do not have a safe, warm home to sleep in, or who struggle to maintain stability. Pray for those who work to support them, in particular the Cheshire East Housing team, social and support workers, volunteers.

Ask God to guide those planning for WHAM (Macclesfield Churches' Winter Nightshelter). To run safely there has to be a single venue, not yet confirmed, and enough volunteers. Pray that this will be resolved and that it will be possible to prepare the venue and safe operating systems. Praise God for the good relationship the team has with the Cheshire East team.

Thank God for those members of our church and the wider community who help to keep our church building open daily for prayer and reflection. Pray for those who come in to explore, and those who come in to pray and reflect, that they will find peace and comfort in the quiet space. Pray that our building will be for them, a place where they encounter God even if they are not even sure He exists.

### Children & Young People: Our Church School: Bollinbrook CE(A) Primary:

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

Pray for the staff and pupils of Bollinbrook, that they may be safe and continue their learning while they adapt to new ways.

November 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> is national anti-bullying week. Thank God for the efforts that have been made to raise awareness of bullying behaviour in schools, workplaces and homes. Pray for our schools, that they may be safe places where no one is afraid of others and all are respected. Pray for those who have been victims of bullying, that they may have the courage to seek help, and develop resilience.