ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

15th November 2026



The Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that
all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



This Sunday - Safeguarding Service, 10am

Churches should be places where God's unconditional love is both received and shared. Safeguarding is not an awkward add-on, or simply another item on the Church Council agenda. It is fundamental to who we are and how we care for one another as a church family.

This Sunday, we'll be reflecting on safeguarding during our Church Family Worship led by Martin and the Safeguarding team.

Last orders! Advent Calendar 2026



If you still haven't ordered your St Mike's Advent Calendar and would like one, please let Lynne know asap (lynne.norbron@gmail.com / 07881 423687 or sign the list at the back of church).

Advent Sunday is 29th November – just over two weeks away - and the calendars need distributing in good time. If you could make a contribution of £10 per calendar to cover the printing and binding costs, that would be great.

You can do this:

· by cash;

· by cheque made payable to St Michael's;

· by bank transfer: payee St Michael's, sort code 16-24-32, account number 10175873 (please reference this 'Advent Calendar').

All those involved - hope that you find the daily reflections thought-provoking and that they provide an opportunity for a quiet few minutes each day during this busy season of the year.

Music@Mike's

Today - Thursday 12th November - Kings School - Starting at 1pm - **NOT 1:15!**

Thursday 19th November - Arthur Marshall and John Robson performing traditional Irish folk tunes

There's no charge to attend, but donations in support of St. Michael's Church and East Cheshire Hospice would be warmly appreciated. Our Angel at My Table café will also be open, serving drinks, tasty food and lovely homemade cakes.

Church Flowers



The flowers on the Chancel altar have been kindly donated by Jo Durbin in loving memory of her brother, George.

Homemakers



The next meeting of Homemakers will be an evening of Christmas crafts. This will be held on Thursday 19th of November, 7:30pm at the home of Lynn McCay, tel. 613 326.

Please let Lynn know if you would like to attend.

Prayer Support



- Please pray for Liz Bradbury, our Safeguarding Officer.
- Please pray for safety at St. Mike's and in the wider community, and that people will be alert to any safeguarding issues and not afraid to report them.
- Give thanks for St. Mike's place at the heart of Macclesfield and pray it will always be a place of love, acceptance and safety.

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How St Michael's is supported financially



A message from Paul Spedding: Gov & Finance team

Many church members contribute to the life of St Michael's, giving of their time and talents in a huge variety of ways, and the church couldn't function without their support.
However, as was explained in Church a couple of Sundays ago, **St. Michael's also needs money**.

The Church of England is built round a principle of shared responsibility so we need money to pay the parish share which is the way churches contribute towards the shared costs of making ministry and mission possible in the Diocese of Chester. These contributions help fund clergy stipends (Martin's salary in other words), clergy housing, training, parish support (including safeguarding, buildings and other specialist services), mission and outreach. We also need money to pay for the upkeep of this beautiful building, to pay the salaries of our office staff and others, for repairs, insurance, electricity, gas, water and so on. Something people may not realise is that in the winter it costs £30 or more for just one hour of gas heating.



Each year is different, but this graph shows very clearly our current financial position - a projected deficit of over £17,000 this year.

We do have reserves, but the position is unsustainable - at this rate, we will run out of money in four or five years' time. Our main source of income is planned giving as you can see, and frankly we need to increase it.

There are about 140 families or households in our church community. Less than half of the households contribute financially on a regular basis.

Furthermore, over half of our planned giving comes from just 13 households. The median giving - that's the middle - is about £68 per month, or £16 per week. But many don't donate at all or give around £20 a month - that's less than a weekly coffee at our local coffee shops.

Now, of course people's personal circumstances are their own affair and the last thing anybody would want to do is to put pressure on people who are struggling financially. That would be terrible.

However, if you don't give to St Michael's regularly, could you start doing so?

If those who don't donate could give just £20pm that would raise around £19,000pa.

If you give regularly, could you consider giving more?
If those who currently give £20pm or £30pm could increase it to £50pm that would raise around £6,000pa.

If those who currently give around the middle amount or more could increase their giving by 10% that would raise another £6,000pa. 20% would obviously be £12,000.

Deuteronomy 16:17:
All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God, that He has given you.

Eco Tip

This Saturday is the Macclesfield Repair Cafe - 10am - 2pm at the Community Centre, Duke Street, SK11 6UR. The friendly and expert team can help you repair household items, electrical gadgets, garden equipment, bikes, clothing & textiles, woodwork and mechanical items. Instead of throwing items away, REPAIR them and reduce your carbon footprint. And if you don't need a repair, you are still welcome to come into the cafe to chat and sample the home made cake!

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Steward and Welcomer Refresher Training

Calling all stewards and welcomers!

You are invited to attend one of our upcoming refresher sessions. We will cover updated procedures under the new Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act (Martyn's Law) and review general building and event management practices at St Michael's.



Training Sessions:
Thursday 19 November at 7:00 pm
Tuesday 24 November at 12:00 noon

Please email me at matt.lewis@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk to let me know which session you can attend, or if neither date works for you.

Thanks, Matt

Homemade Christmas Items

After the service this Sunday, Sandie Bevan will be selling her handmade Christmas table runners (£5 each, 10 available) and coasters - donations to be made to St Michael's either cash into the box or using the card / tap machine. Thank you, Sandie.



Please Pray for COP31

World leaders, NGOs, charities and oil companies are gathering in Turkey this week for COP31, the United Nations climate conference. They will be seeking solutions to the climate and nature crises facing our planet – God's precious creation.
Please join us in praying for all those attending, that their discussions will lead to meaningful and lasting change.

Please pray:

- That the agenda will be agreed swiftly, allowing negotiations to move forward with the urgency needed, and that political leaders will be ambitious and committed to finding solutions.
- For wisdom for everyone with a voice at the conference. May God give them the strength and courage to speak truth to power and stand up for justice.
- For positive and practical outcomes, and that words will be turned into action, with decisions implemented quickly, efficiently and effectively.

Let us hold the conference, its participants and the future of God's creation in our prayers.
Find out more and explore further prayer points: https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2026/09/how-can-i-pray-for-cop31

David Mayers

Silklife Foodbank Reverse Advent 2026

Christmas is a great time to give.
From Monday 2 November to Thursday 26 November 2026, please help us to help others by bringing in items to create a hamper for the Silklife Foodbank from St Mikes, so that we can continue to help those in need in 2027. Attached is the poster with further information. Thank you in advance for any donations you can give to those in need.

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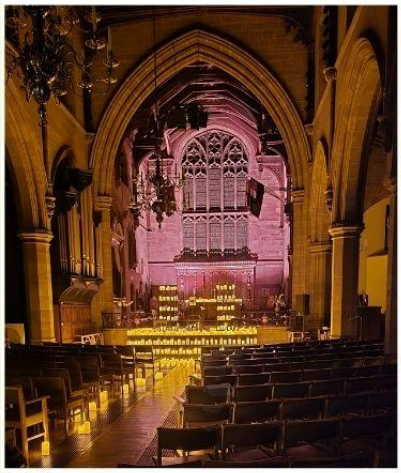


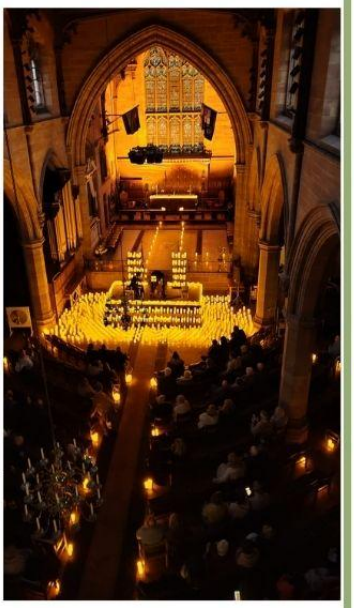
St Michael's by (electric) candlelight

Last Saturday the Worship Area was spectacularly lit for two concerts of Fleetwood Mac music. The church building was packed! About 680 people came through our doors, many of whom would not visit us otherwise; furthermore, the event raised about £750 for St Michael's (less heating costs), which makes a worthwhile contribution to our finances!

Are you aware that to make this happen, we had two volunteer stewards present for 4 hours each? Also, the platform had to be taken down beforehand (two people, 30mins) and put up again on Sunday morning (two people, 30mins).

Could you consider helping our fundraising by joining our team of event stewards, or our platform team? In order to keep accepting event bookings we do need a few more volunteers. Speak with Rachel or Matt.











A couple of photos from Remembrance Sunday. Thank you all involved.





Indian Banquet

FInal call! This Sunday - 15th November 6pm-9pm. Please book ASAP, tickets still available. An opportunity for everyone to enjoy a great meal and entertainment provided by our South Indian community - and support the St Michael's building fund!

Pay by bank transfer to St. Michael's Building Fund 10175873 16-24-32 (reference banquet and your name) or pay by cash in the church office

Adults £22, Under 11's £12, Family £60.

Silk Brass Concert



The Silk Brass Band's Christmas concert here at St Michael's is on evening of **Friday 18th Dec.** It will be a wonderful evening! The poster is attached with details on how to book tickets. Christmas is round the corner!

Bollinbrook School - Job Opportunity

A part time TA opportunity is coming up.

Contact the school:

Tel: 01625 789089

E-mail: head@bollinbrook.cheshire.sch.uk for more information.

Macclesfield Christmas Tree Festival 2026

The annual Christmas Tree Festival, at Christ Church, on Bridge Street opens on Thursday 3rd December, it is well worth a visit!

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Message from Open Church Team

Suppose you are visiting a city and see a big old building which is called a cathedral. It has awesome architecture. What is it for? You've heard it has something to do with someone called Jesus, so you are curious and go in.

What do you find? The building is awesome.
You have a very friendly welcome from stewards at the door, who point you towards a very detailed interactive display about mediaeval building techniques, and leaflets describing aspects of the architecture. You learn about Catherine of Aragon and her symbol, the pomegranate, which can be found around the building. You discover the history of the Black Prince – but who is this Jesus? Your efforts to find out who Jesus is are fruitless.. until eventually you find a prayer which ends with "through Jesus Christ our Lord" .. and that's all.

That is, sadly, a true story told by Archbishop Stephen, who, when newly-appointed to Peterborough Cathedral, visited the building in "mufti" to find out what the visitor experience was. How can we use our building to help visitors to find out about Jesus?

We have recently registered our church as a "Pilgrim Place"; one of many churches across the North of England who want to help visitors to discover something of our faith through their open buildings. There are some free, generic, resources, which we can use. They guide people towards the font, pulpit, communion table and candle stand.



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How can aspects of our own magnificent building help us to tell the story? I look out for ideas when visiting other churches. I am sure the creative people of St Michael's can come up with something better (or at least as good).

We imagine a single page, with not too much text, perhaps with a Bible verse, a sentence or two explaining what this tells us about our faith, and/or a prayer, and finally, where appropriate, a brief historical note. These can relate to features inside the building, or outside in the church grounds.

We would like everyone at St Michael's to contribute; please have a think and tell the Open Church Team about your ideas. Thank you, Rachel Mayers



Worship Night at HTH



Holy Trinity Hursdfield are arranging a worship night. Anyone in Macclesfield is welcome to come along.
There will be a mixture of extended worship, sharing of testimony about 'what has God done in 2026' and 'how has God spoken to you'?
Any questions, please contact Anthony on hello@hthmacc.com.

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Create Through the Psalms

Welcome to your invitation to engage with Scripture in a new and beautiful way. Join us for this 4-week series, Restored: A journey to create through Psalm 23.

Read through this week's Scripture. Take a moment to sit with the passage. Prepare your heart to engage with God creatively.

Week 2: He Restoreth My Soul

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:3)

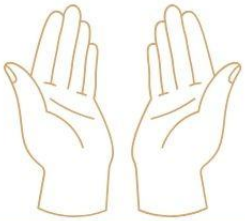
WITH YOUR HANDS

Create, in whatever medium you choose, a piece that shows something being restored or made new again. You might picture a wilted plant lifting back towards the light, sunlight breaking through after a storm, a cracked bowl mended with gold, colour returning to a faded scene, or use collage to create a picture of something coming back into a whole.

WITH YOUR WORDS

What in you needs restoring? Try one:

- Write a reflection on a time you felt restored
- Do a word study on "restoreth"
- Write a short prayer asking to be led on the right path, trusting that God knows your every longing and need



WITH YOUR ACTIONS

Restore something this week.
Try one:

- Mend, tidy, or repair something this week
- Reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while
- Take a few minutes each day to sit quietly, breathe slowly, and rest in God's care.



We'd love to see what you create!

Please email stmikesnotices@gmail.com or WhatsApp 07579 820 265 so we can share your artwork or reflections with the church community.



Sunday 15th November 2026

Church Family Worship 10am.
Safeguarding Sunday - 'Love Protects'

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 13
Leaders & Speakers: Revd Martin Stephens and the Safeguarding team.

Use the link below to stream this (and previous services) on YouTube www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield

Start the Week
Every Monday from 7.30am in church
Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Facebook - Link to Facebook

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
Alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am in the Savage Chapel - lasting 30-40 minutes.

Thursday Worship 10:30am (35–40 mins)
Our midweek services follow the order from the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) and alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion.

19th November: Morning Communion
26th November: Morning Prayer

Thursday Homegroup (Contemplative Prayer)
Meeting for Bible study and prayer
morning and evening groups
Contact Eve & David Budgett (431606) or David Mayers (420716) for more information

Held in the Silence
Friday mornings from 9.20-9.50.
An opportunity for quiet prayer followed by a cuppa and chat.

Compline/Night Prayer - Every Friday
Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm
Join Zoom Meeting; Click here to join meeting
Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476
Passcode: compline



Choral Evensong
Usually **2nd Sunday of each month, 6:30pm**
Words from the Book of Common Prayer and music in the Anglican choral tradition. Everyone welcome.

Share your Photos with St Mike's Church Family



If you've any photos of recent significant birthdays or celebrations which you'd like to share in Church Family News on Sunday mornings, please send them via WhatsApp to this number: **+44 7579 820265**

You can, of course, also email pictures and text to stmikesnotices@gmail.com. The deadline each week is: 12 noon on Wednesdays

How to contact the office...Tel: 01625 421 984



Isobel: clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry queries
(Office hours usually Mon & Wed 9.00-15:00; Thurs & Fri 9.00-1.00.



Phoebe: bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk.
for bookings and building matters
(Office hours are usually Mon, Tues & Thurs 9:30am – 1:30pm

- Bulletin/Newsletter: **stmikesnotices@gmail.com**
- Printing: **maccteamprinting@gmail.com**
- Safeguarding: see box below

Postal Address:
The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
The National Safeguarding Team
Promoting a Safer Church

Safeguarding Contact Information
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the St Michael's Safeguarding Officer. **Liz Bradbury is the safeguarding officer:**
Phone: 07465 865 441 - NEW NUMBER!
Email: safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Donating to St Michael's is easy!
Scan this QR Code or use the contactless donation point in the Welcome Area

DONATE ♥

SCAN ME



Email any prayer requests to:
prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
Your request will be circulated confidentially to a limited group of people who will pray for you.