

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

20th September 2026



The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

September's Art Group - Week 2 Planted by the Water

Create Through the Psalms



Welcome to your invitation to engage with Scripture in a new and beautiful way.

Join us for this 3-week series, Rooted: A journey to create through Psalm 1.

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

Psalm 1:3

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.

WITH YOUR HANDS

Create an art piece that depicts the roots of a tree as clearly as the leaves. Let colour do some of the storytelling: maybe the water's colour flows up into the leaves, or the fruit is the one bold colour in an otherwise quiet piece.

WITH YOUR WORDS

What river is keeping you rooted right now?

Try one:

- Write a song or hymn verse about being planted
- Try lettering the phrase "planted by the rivers of water" as a piece in itself
- Do a word study on "planted" or "rivers" - the wider biblical picture of water and life.

WITH YOUR ACTIONS

Return to one source of nourishment daily this week - a passage, a place, a practice - even briefly.

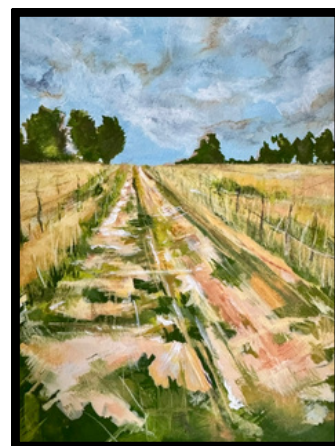
Try one:

- Host a simple gathering for friends and talk about what's sustaining you lately
- Give something you've made, grown, or gathered that represents something life-giving to you
- Spend ten minutes each day in the same quiet spot, treating it as your "river"

We'd love to see what you create! Please email stmikesnotices@gmail.com or WhatsApp +447579820265 so we can share your artwork or reflections with the church community.

Kirsty

A few submissions so far...



Psalm 1 - Recently I have been pondering on how we can grow as Christians and become 'like a tree that is planted by the riverside, bearing fruit in each season' v.3. And wondering why I am struggling so much at present. So verse 2 'they delight in the word of the Lord, meditating on it day and night' spoke to me quite forcefully. As a result, I've started my morning bible study again. This picture shows that I need to be rooted before I can grow and bear fruit.

Tricia



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Notices

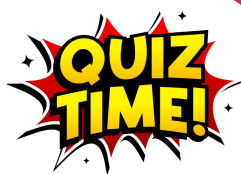
Church Flowers

The flowers in the Worship Area have been kindly donated by Vicky and Gordon Darlington as a thank you for all the family at St Michael's who have supported us throughout the year.



Quiz night at Button Warehouse

- Monday, September 28
- 7:00PM 9:30PM
- The Button House, 44-48 Chestergate



Come along to the Quiz night in aid of St Mikes! Pre booked tables only. Max 6 per team.

Min £3pp. To reserve a table email info@thebuttonwarehouse.co.uk.



Music @ Mikes

On behalf of everyone at the Hospice, thank you St Michael's for your kind gift of £949.38 raised through the last series of your Music @ Mike's events



East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

SATURDAY

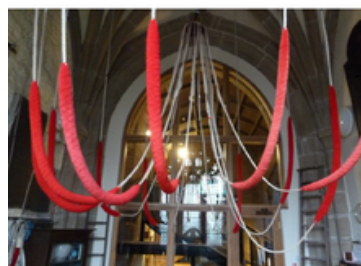
Heritage Open Day

There is lots to see in St Michael's THIS **Saturday 19th September**.

A rare opportunity to see our historic altar frontals and banners; the audio trail; bellringing demonstrations and of course a zipwire for your teddies! Do come and have a look – and if you can, stay around a while to share in welcoming others. We look forward to welcoming you!



Rachel says the vicar is going first!



Find out about our fantastic ring of 12 bells and how they are rung. Short talks and ringing demonstrations take place in the first floor ringing room.

Talks will take place at 10.30, 12.30 and 2.30


heritage open days



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10 Years at St Michael's!



Martin,
congratulations on 10
years of ministry here
at St Mikes! Where
does the time go...
Thank you for
everything you do.



Baptisms, this Sunday



We thank you for the joy of baptism and for Arthur and Tylan. Bless them, strengthen them, and guide them. We hope you can join us in the celebration this weekend.

LETS: This Sunday!

This Sunday
'Let's Eat Together' Lunch
is this Sunday.



Bring some food and eat with others,
maybe sharing if you wish. Newcomers are
especially welcome: don't worry if you
haven't any food - there's usually plenty.

MUSIC @ MIKES

A series of informal lunchtime concerts show-casing
the best of our aspiring musicians from the town
and further afield.



**THURSDAY 24TH
SEPTEMBER**

Lin Xu-Zhang (piano)

Free Entry | 1:15-2:00 PM

Donations in support of East Cheshire Hospice and St
Michael's Church are warmly welcomed.

Refreshments and main meals will be available before and
after the event at the Angel At My Table café.



**FRIDAY 2ND
OCTOBER**

Kell Wind Trio



**FRIDAY 9TH
OCTOBER**

Will Smith (tenor) and
Simon Bate (piano)



**FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER**

Arthur Marshall
(contemporary folk music)



**THURSDAY 22ND
OCTOBER**

Adam Parrish (piano)



**FRIDAY 30TH
OCTOBER**

Adrienne Spillsbury (violin) and Julian Davis (piano)



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?



CartoonChurch.com

There is an event going on at Chester Cathedral
'God of all the World'

Saturday Sept 26th 12-4pm

God of All the World



**A Celebration of Worldwide Mission
and Chester Diocese's links across the world**



Bishop Anthony Poggo
Secretary General of
the Anglican Communion

**Saturday 26 September
Chester Cathedral
12 noon – 4.00pm**

- Address by Bishop Anthony at 12.30 & 2.30
- Displays by Mission Agencies and Chester Diocese's global links
- Come and be creative with the Cathedral's resident artist Kirushan Savignanam
- 'Music from Around the World' workshop at 1.30
- And much more – no charge for entry



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Season of Creation: Week 4 highlights



Feeding Bellies not Bins! - Friday 18th September 5.00 - 9.00pm at St. Michael's Church SK10 1DY - like the TV programme "Ready, Steady, Cook" come along to prepare, cook and eat a meal made from surplus food available on the day

River Bollin Clean-up - Saturday 19th September 10 - 3 (drop-in any time) at Riverside Park SK10 2SL; bring wellies and gloves

Big Trees and Mini-beasts - Sunday 20th September 12 - 2pm West Park; discover the amazing natural world around us, fun activities for all the family

Laudato Si Centre visit - Wednesday 23rd September 9.15 - 2.30pm. Booking required 01625 421984 - 5 places left!

Middlewood Way Nature Walk - Saturday 26th September 2 - 5pm. Start Adington Road carpark SK10 5JT



Eco Tip



Go foraging! There are lots of tasty field mushrooms in the fields at the moment - but ask advice if you are not sure. And always leave some to allow more to grow next year. And there are lots of sloes about, how about some sloe gin? Also many people have trees full of apples, plums and pears and are unable or unwilling to pick them. Ask permission and share the proceeds. Enjoy the bountiful provision of God's creation!



SAVE THE DATE

INDIAN BANQUET

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Macclesfield
Sunday 15th November 2026
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Join us for an evening of delicious food & entertainment!
Adult £22, Under 11's £12, Family £60
Soft drinks provided, please bring any alcoholic drinks.

Proceeds to the St Michaels Building Fund
Pay online (details below) or cash in Church Office
Please use reference "(Surname), BANQUET"
Account: 10175873
Sort code: 16-24-32

For more info or to inform us on any dietary requirements:
Tel: 01625 421 984 E: clergypa@maccteam.org.uk



We had 190 people here for the People's Emergency Briefing on Friday 11th September, what a brilliant evening it was!! Thank you to those who attended!



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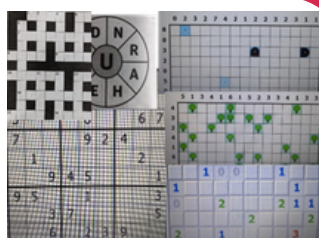
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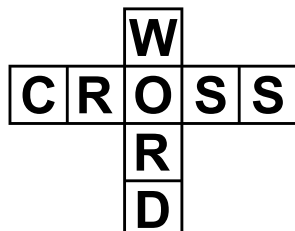
Is it logical?

by Sallie Bancroft

I love puzzles! Crosswords (not cryptic), word-wheels, and especially logic puzzles like Sudoku.



I enjoy the rhythm of doing them, of spotting the patterns, the challenge and satisfaction when completed correctly.



I know where I am with a puzzle, there is usually only one solution, and I make decisions using logical deduction with the knowledge I have. If a mistake is made, it doesn't work out, then I go back; perhaps even start again.



Life, I find, is not very logical. Some of it is: I get hungry or thirsty if I don't eat or drink; if I don't shop for food there won't be any in the cupboard to eat, etc. We learn how to look after ourselves by noticing patterns. We get more efficient because we develop habits, especially through repeated activities, and, if things don't work out, we try a different way and possibly ask for help.

But what about some of the decisions we make that are not black and white: what job do I take? when do I stop work? Whom should I trust as friends? Where do I live? When do I move? Sometimes we can avoid making decisions because the choice is too difficult and we're afraid of 'getting it wrong' – which is a decision in itself: doing nothing. Is there a right or wrong choice? And what about what happens around us that we have no control over: the weather; rising cost of living; wars; the behaviour of other people; accidents? We'll respond to what we encounter to the best of our ability. In life we can only make the best decision possible in that moment, with the facts and abilities we have.

Isaiah 55:8 shows us that human logic is not like God's logic. God's love and care for us is not logical. But it is real! We're not promised an easy life, but God promises to be with us in it if only we ask.

· "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

· This is what the Lord says – he who created you, ... "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:1-2)

In my Christian faith pilgrimage I find that whatever happens – wherever life leads me, whatever choices I make – as long as I am turning to Jesus, listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God will use the circumstances. There may then be opportunities to help – through action or listening, not reacting to situations with anger, sharing God's love in word and deed. Or maybe I learn something about myself – my ego, my relationship with God, to ask for and receive forgiveness.

If we read the Bible, especially the Gospels and the life of Jesus, we're provided with a pattern to follow – one of love and care for our fellow human beings and for all of creation. If we follow that, then wouldn't our world be a much better place?

That's logical!

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9



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Sunday 20th September 2026

Holy Communion

Two Family Baptisms - Arthur Ayscough & Tylan Henry.

10:00am: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

Leader: Revd Martin Stephens

Speaker: Lynne Spedding

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

24th September: Midweek Communion

1st October: Midweek Morning prayer

Thursday Homegroup

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 (Contemplative Prayer)

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...



01625 421984



Isobel: clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry queries
(Office hours usually Mon & Wed 9.00-2.45;
Thurs & Fri 9.00-1.00.

Elaine: 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 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: 07435 568 729

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 ❤️



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.



1ST September 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

'NEW BEGINNINGS'

In July we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Hope Centre. During this period the Team of Volunteers, Management and Trustees have worked, seeking to make a positive difference, living, loving and sharing within our community.

Many individuals with diverse needs have received training in the Hope Centre and gone on to achieve employment. Most importantly for many their self-esteem, family lives and relationships have been restored. Supporters who were at the Thanksgiving Service, were moved by those who stood up and shared their testimonies with us all.

For some months now the Trustees have been spending much time in discussion and prayer considering the future, feeling strongly that God was challenging us to stand at the crossroads and be guided by Him to choose the right way forward. There has also been a regular Sunday afternoon 'Call to Prayer' attended by people from as many as five different denominations. One person who felt called to attend these meetings with his family was Dan Blackman, who himself was seeking where God was calling him.

I am very pleased to announce that as a first step Dan Blackman will be taking on the role of Director, as of September 8th working closely with Ruth and the Trustees as we develop a detailed plan, at this stage in its embryonic state. As many of you will know Dan has significant experience working in the community, notably successfully developing the Silklife Food Bank.

This is an exciting **fresh start**, building on 15 years of the Hope Centre serving others in our community. The Hope Centre in North-East Cheshire will remain an independent charity but will be renamed '**THE BEACON**' which we believe will more clearly reflect our Mission & Purpose.

As we enter this period of transition, developing the vision and preparing for the revelation of God's plan, prayer and financial support are vital. Please pray that God will continue to be our guide.

The prayer times will continue Sunday afternoon (4-5pm) and Tuesday morning between (10 and 11am).

Please come and be part of the Team. Everyone is welcome.

Bob Boland (Chair) On behalf of the Trustees

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