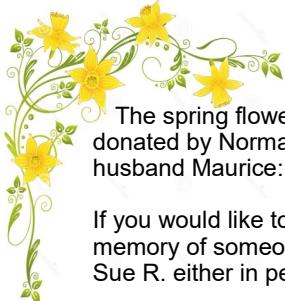




## Church Flowers



The spring flowers in the worship area have been donated by Norma in loving memory of her dear husband Maurice: 'my love as always'.

If you would like to have a floral arrangement in memory of someone special, please get in touch with Sue R. either in person or via the Church Office.

## Breathe with the Seasons: Pentecost



Would anyone want to come with Tricia A. to consider what Pentecost is all about, on Tuesday 19 May at Foxhill House and Woodlands:

**Connected with Christ through the life-giving Spirit:** an Encounter Day with Lucy Brewster.

Contact her on [tricia.atherton@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.atherton@gmail.com) or in person.

## Eco-tip

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast.

Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.

Beginning on 18th Feb, you'll receive an email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season.

Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation.

Find out more and sign up at <https://climatesewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>



## World Day of Prayer

Macclesfield churches are getting together for this year's World Day of Prayer service. The theme is: **Nigeria**

**Date:** 6th March 2026  
**Time:** 11.00am (coffee from 10.00am)

**Venue:** United Reformed Church

Some St Mike's folks are involved as part of the organising team.

Do come along - this service is always inspiring and it's great to worship with members of other churches.

All welcome!

WORLD DAY OF  
PRAYER  
SERVICE 2026

Nigeria

'I will give you rest:  
Come'

[www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)



## Music@Mike's

Next week's concert is on Saturday 14th February at 1.15pm when Sarah Maxwell (soprano) and Chris Cromar (piano) will perform songs with a romantic theme - love is in the air!



The Angel at my Table café will be open for light refreshments.

Entry is free but donations are invited for the East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's Church, jointly.

## Rhodri's Funeral

This will take place on 17th February 2.30pm at St Michael's, and then at the crematorium at 3.30pm. The wake will be held at church following the crematorium service.



There will be tea and coffee served after the church service for those not going on to the crematorium.

## Healing Service Dates 2026

- Fri 20th March
- Fri 26th June
- Fri 18th Sept
- Fri 27th Nov

11.00 - 11.30 in the Savage Chapel



## Postage Stamps

If anyone has any used postage stamps, Tricia Wilson can find a home for them through a member of the East Cheshire Hospice Choir.



Please speak to Tricia or just bring them in sometime to give to her.

## LET'S: Sunday 15th Feb.

Next Sunday (15th Feb.) is **Let's Eat Together Sunday**,

Don't eat alone on Sunday - bring some food and eat with others after the morning service, sharing if you wish.



## The Collect for the Fifth Sunday before Lent

God of our salvation,  
help us to turn away from those habits  
which harm our bodies and poison our minds  
and to choose again your gift of life,  
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord

# Reminders

## Babysing

The Babysing group has got off to a flying start and could do with more helpers!

If you feel able and would like to assist, please let Jan know as soon as possible: [jan.rose.1000@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jan.rose.1000@hotmail.co.uk) .

**Please note that a dot was left out of Jan's email last week—it has now been restored!**

The sessions take place at St Michael's at 10.30 on Friday mornings.



### Babysalmesang

## Riding Lights A date for your diary

**Thursday 5th March**

Riding Lights, the Christian theatre group, brings its new Passion Play to St Michael's.



**More info at <https://www.ridinglights.org/nightfalls>**

**Box office: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ridinglights/night-falls/2026-03-05/19:30/t-vxvkvn>**

**If you are unable to order on-line using this link please see David Mayers or Isobel in the office and they will make sure you get your ticket**

## A Date for your Diary

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Six years ago we had a whole church Vision Day which gave rise to our Strategic Purpose and three Strategic Objectives. It's time to celebrate what's been achieved from that, review what's still to do from it, and refocus our attention going forward. To help us, we'll be very ably supported by colleagues from the Diocese.

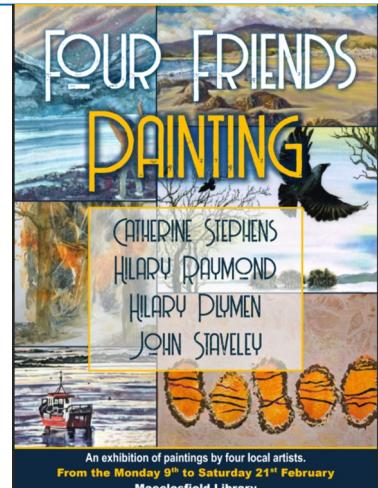
**EVERYONE** who's on Church Council or one of the CC Teams is strongly encouraged to make this next day a priority please, as well as anyone else who's involved in a leading way in the life of St Michael's.

Martin will be writing to those he feels should definitely attend, but if you want to take part too then have a word with him ... and reserve the date: daytime, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March.



## Four Friends Painting

Please see the accompanying flyer with details of an art exhibition being put on by four people connected with our church family: Catherine Stephens; John Staveley; Hilary Raymond and Hilary Plymen



**Monday 9th - Saturday 21st February  
Macclesfield Library**

## Pancake & Quiz Night

- Saturday 7th Feb
- 6.00pm
- at St Michael's



Please RSVP to [salliebancroft@googlemail.com](mailto:salliebancroft@googlemail.com)  
See attached flyer for full information

## Trading in Oppression

How the UK's economic ties with Israel support the occupation of Palestine.



This is a talk by Global Justice Now's speaker, Tim Brierley, on Tuesday 10th February, 7:30pm at St Michael's Church.

## Foodie Friday

'Foodie Friday' comprises a 3-course meal using surplus food, with guests contributing on a 'pay-as-you-feel' basis (a price is suggested).



Profits from the meal go towards providing free meals for more vulnerable members of our community during the week.

The next Foodie Friday will be **Friday 13th February** (not 6th as might be expected).

Arrive at church at about 6.00pm for a 6.30pm meal.

**To book: contact the church office, 01625 421984.**

# Lent



## at St Michael's

### Lent Study Groups

Please sign up on the relevant sheet at the back of church if you would like to attend one of our four additional study groups during Lent.

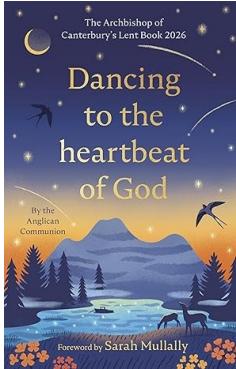
Contact details for all leaders are on the noticeboard

In brief:

**'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God'**  
- the Lent study book recommended by our new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally.

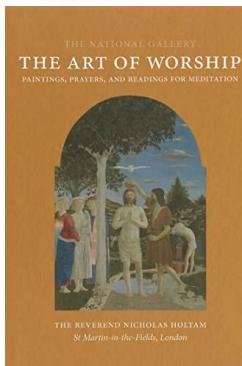
Groups which will be using this book meet at the following times:

- Monday evenings at 7.30, at 10 Old Buxton Road (leaders: David M. and Mike)
- Tuesday mornings 10.15 in church (leader: Tricia A)
- Thursday mornings 11.15 (after the midweek service) in the Youth Centre (leaders are Vivien and Barbara)
- There are also one or two spaces in the usual Thursday morning homegroup, which meets at David and Eve's house. Please contact Vicky or Gordon if you would like to come along to these sessions during Lent.



**'The Art of Worship'** - a compilation of artwork from The National Gallery along with reflections and prayers on aspects of the Christian life

- Tuesday evenings 7.30 alternating between Higher Fold Farm, Rainow Road and 56 Fence Avenue. (leaders are Sue O and Lynne)



### Acquiring copies of the books

For the 'Dancing to the Heartbeat' book, liaise with the leader of the group you will be joining if you need assistance in ordering a copy (easily available online).

'The Art of Worship' is out of print but second hand copies (usually in pristine condition!) are available online. Ask Sue O if you need help ordering.

### Ash Wednesday Services

**18th February**

Please note that there will be two special services on **Ash Wednesday, 18th February** - one at **10.30am** and one at **6.30pm**.



These will involve the marking with ash (optional) as a sign of repentance, and will signal the start of Lent.

The services will be held in the Savage Chapel.

The evening service will last around 45 minutes. The morning service, which will also include Holy Communion, will last slightly longer.

### Maundy Thursday

**2nd April**

**Agape Meal with (optional) washing of feet**



We will be holding a Maundy Thursday evening service, as we did last year, to reflect on the events of the night before Jesus' crucifixion, when He gave His disciples a 'new commandment' to love another. He illustrated this by Himself washing their feet; then He shared a meal with them: the basis for our Communion Service.

This Agape Service is one of quiet reflection, with liturgy, music, silence and symbolism, lasting approximately one hour.

This service will take place at **7.00pm on Maundy Thursday evening (2nd April)**.

In order to cater appropriately (a simple 'meal') please speak to Lynne, Heike or Barbara to signal your intention to come along.

You do not have to have your feet washed!

### Good Friday

**3rd April**

There will be two services: morning worship in the nave at 10.00am and the afternoon contemplative service which, as usual, will last approximately 2 hours, comprising 4 sections of about 25 minutes each. You can stay for the full two hours or arrive/leave at roughly 30 minute points. More details to follow



Join us for **Worship**



## Sunday Worship

8th February 2026

### 10:00am: Church Family Worship with children's groups

**Leader:** Revd Martin Stephens

**Speaker:** Revd Vivien Gisby

**Bible Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

### 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Leader: Barbara Taylor (OWL)

Speaker: Martin Bancroft (LLM)

Please use the link below to stream this  
(and previous services) on YouTube

<https://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

<https://www.facebook.com/stmikesmacclesfield>

## Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel  
lasting 30-40 minutes.

**Next Meeting: 18th February**

## Thursday Morning 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

**12th February: Holy Communion  
19th February: Morning Prayer**

## Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer –  
morning and evening groups

Please contact Eve & David Budgett (431606)  
or David Mayers (420716) for more information



## Sound of 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; <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09>

**Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476 Passcode: compline**



## Share your Photos with St Mike's Church Family



If you have any photographs of recent  
activities you have been involved in  
which you would like including in the weekly bulletin/newsletter  
or in the Church Family News slot in Sunday services, please  
use this number to WhatsApp them to the relevant people:

**+44 7579 820265**

You can, of course, also email pictures and text to  
[stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)

## How to contact the office...



**Phone:** Landline: 01625 421984

### Email addresses:

- Isobel** [clergypa@maccteam.org.uk](mailto:clergypa@maccteam.org.uk) for ministry issues
- Elaine** [bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk) for bookings and building matters
- Bulletin/Newsletter** [stmikesnotices@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesnotices@gmail.com)
- Printing** [maccteamprinting@gmail.com](mailto:maccteamprinting@gmail.com)
- Safeguarding** see box below

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

Elaine's office hours are *usually* Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am – 1:30 pm

Isobel's Office hours are *usually* Monday & Wednesday 9.00-2.45; Thursday 9.00 - 1.00 and Friday 8.30 - 1.00

## Safeguarding Contact Information



If you have any safeguarding concerns,  
please contact the St Michael's  
Safeguarding Officer, Katie Wilcock:

**Phone:** 07435 568 729

**Email:** [safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto: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



## Email any prayer requests to:

[prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)

Your request will be circulated confidentially to  
a limited group of people who will pray for you.

