



@stmikesmacclesfield



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Nativity

**Next Sunday (21st)
10.00am**

Please come and join in the retelling of this familiar story as members of our congregation, from

the very young to the exceedingly old, don their tea-towels, tinsel and crowns to bring it to life once again.

If you would like to come as a shepherd, an angel or a king (and, yes, we know that they aren't really kings!) it would add to the sense of celebration. You are welcome to come onto the stage and take part in the relevant scenes when invited.

This is a great time of fun, thoughtfulness and carol singing with enthusiastic accompaniment from our band!



Carols by Candlelight

**Next Sunday (21st)
6.30pm**

As a complete contrast to the

Nativity in the morning, we have our traditional Carols by Candlelight Service in the evening (6.30pm).

Come and join us for this time of carols sung by the choir, plus congregational carols and traditional readings in the beautiful candlelight - a time for thoughtful reflection and joyful thanks.

Sound of Silence (Contemplative Prayer)



This week (Friday 12th December) we will be meeting at Beth's home for our time of contemplative prayer as there is a school Christmas Service in church and silence won't be on the cards!

There will be no Friday meeting on 26th December (Boxing Day).

We return to our usual weekly meetings on Friday 2nd January 2026 (9.20-9.50 in the Savage Chapel).



Midweek (Thursday) Services over the Christmas Period

Please note that Thursday 18th December will be Holy Communion, then the next midweek service will be 8th January (Morning Prayer).

On Christmas Day (Thursday 25th) there will be Family Communion in the nave.

There will be no midweek service on New Year's Day: so midweek services begin their usual pattern on 8th January.



The Crib Service

Christmas Eve, 4.00pm

Can you help?

There are families in our town who make this service part of their tradition at Christmas. The church is usually fairly full with prams in the aisles etc.

It is great to see so many young parents wanting their children to have this experience during their childhood.

This year the format will be fairly simple but we do need help from any regular church members who can be there.

Please speak to Tricia Atherton or Jenny Whitten if you are hoping to attend - doing something together can be fun, no special skills required!

Tricia.atherton@gmail.com



Help to Decorate the Welcome Area

We will be decorating the Welcome Area on Monday 15th Dec and it would be great to have some help. It is a fun activity to do together.

Tricia will be in church from 11.30 to get things together so that we can start when the cafe closes at 12 noon.

There will be mince pies and warm mulled drinks available, as well as tea and coffee.

Just turn up when you can. Tricia will be there until 1.15pm. Thanks.



Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord

Thank you

A big 'thank you' from all the Styal team for the lovely journals donated to us by St Michael's and delivered by Martin B.

They are very precious and will be put to good use. Mike (Chaplain)

Thanks from the Hospice



East Cheshire Hospice @Home

Here when you need us most

Thank you so much for your donation of £506.19 for East Cheshire Hospice raised via 'Music@Mikes' - we are truly grateful for your support.

Your generosity helps provide quality care and comfort to those in our community with a life-limiting illness. The Hospice is a place where life is celebrated and our patients, their families and carers are at the centre of everything we do.

In order to keep providing our vital services, we need to fundraise around 80% of our daily running costs, so your donation really will make a difference.

On behalf of everyone at the Hospice, thank you for your kind gift.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

Emma

Carols in the Park

Sunday 14th December

12noon - 1.00pm in West Park!

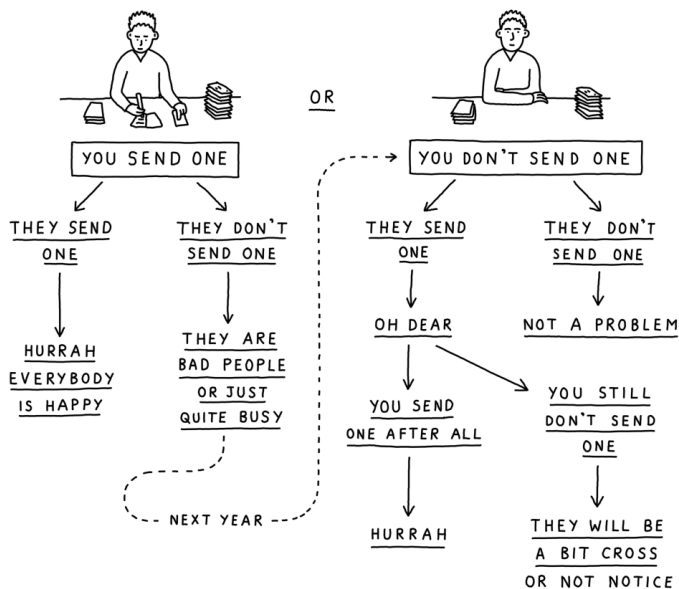
Join the Friends of West Park in singing carols with the local community, and sharing some of the joy of a traditional Christmas.

All welcome.

Come to the playground near the cafe.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



CartoonChurch.com

St Michael's Building for Hire

Do you need to hire a space?

St Michael's has meeting rooms of various sizes to meet your needs, and our large Worship Area with its giant screen and AV system is suitable for presentations, concerts, etc.

Email Elaine: bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Tel: 01625 421984

Seeing in the Dark

A reflection from Tricia



In an effort to keep my faith-life grounded in the teachings of Jesus, I constantly read and re-read the gospels. At the moment, for this Advent Season, I am reading John's Gospel which is considered to be different from the other three

gospels in that John is teaching us to think more deeply on a spiritual level: to look at life through the eyes of people who are born of the Spirit.

The beautiful words at the beginning of John's gospel become very familiar at this time of year. Jesus, the light of the world, God in human form, wisdom personified has come to open the way for us to be in relationship with the God who loves us and who breathed life into us and all living things.

The following account written by John is composed of Jesus giving clues (signs) as to His true nature. We all know the end result of this

However, in John chapter 9 we read about the man born blind who was healed by Jesus on the Sabbath. This, of course was against the strict Jewish laws and was a direct provocation by Jesus to the Pharisees challenging them to think deeper than their religious laws and practices.

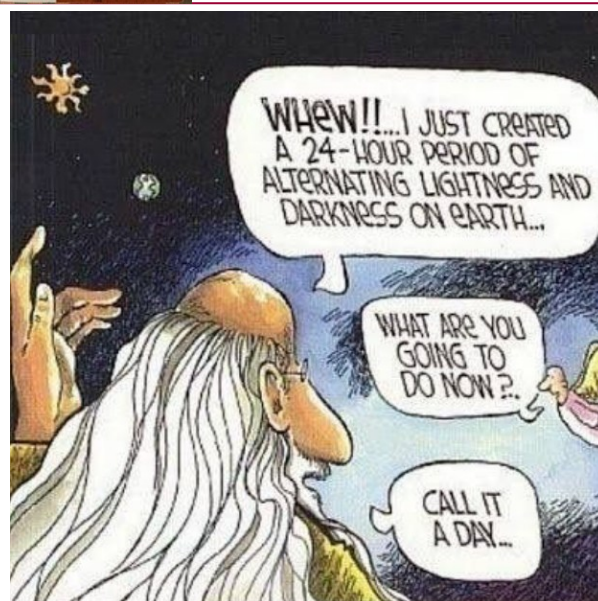
Hidden messages from Jesus on a spiritual level, appear to be that some of the religious leaders were born blind and wanted to stay that way, bound by their laws and belief systems. The man who was healed stood firm in his acknowledgement of Jesus' healing power. His parents were frightened that they would be banished from the Synagogue if they spoke out for Jesus. The Pharisees themselves were afraid of something new coming into their ordered lives.

Today in our world there is much cause for fear and anxiety. This time of year, is particularly difficult for many of us. My prayer is that we will collectively look to the light of Christ.



On page 139 of this book from our Church Library Tom Wright states 'fear, resentment, shock and anxiety cripple our understanding, restrict our faith and stifle our love.' and

'When surrounded by fear and anger the only way through it is to glimpse whatever we can see of Jesus, and to follow him out of the dark and into the light.'



Submitted by David S., for your amusement!

Silent Vigil for Gaza

Some hardy members of St Michael's joined in the silent vigil for Gaza and the West Bank in the market place on Friday evening - calling on among other things a complete ceasefire from both sides, a stop to arms sales to Israel, the release of more aid, and an end to settler violence in the West Bank



Racial Justice Sunday

On Sunday 8th Feb. 2026, there will be an event at St Mary's Parish Church Stockport (Churchgate, Stockport SK1 1YG) from 12.30-3.30pm 'to explore unity, equality, and the shared power of culture.

Through interactive discussions, creative activities, and reflection, everyone will celebrate racial justice.

Expect thought-provoking conversations, collaborative art moments, and a chance to connect with others committed to positive change. It is a family friendly event, so bring along your children and friends.

There will be local schools exhibiting their racial justice artwork and there will be an interracial and intergenerational panel of people discussing their viewpoints on the positives and challenges of being part of the Church of England. It will be a great way to show allyship with justice and creating safe spaces for all.

For any queries, please contact Nadene Wright at nadene.wright@chester.anglican.org

If you would like to book to attend, please click [here](#)



Another cartoon for your amusement—again from David S.
(he's on a roll!)

Christmas Celebrations in Macclesfield Market Place



Treacle Market Shoppers' Carol Service,

Sun Dec. 21st, 1.00pm & 2.00 (20 minutes each time) to be held in the grounds of St Michael's Church.

Eco-tip

Use peat-free compost

Peatlands are important in fighting climate change as they absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere. For that reason, peat is best left where it is rather than being dug up for use in compost. Check compost is labelled 'peat-free' – a government ban on peat-based compost is due to come into force by the end of this year.



Forthcoming Concerts at St Michael's

* **Saturday 13th December 7.30pm**
KEMS Christmas Concert with Choir and Concert Band

* **Friday 19th December 8.00pm**
Silk Brass Christmas Concert



Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

14th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00am: Church Family Worship
with Roots & Storytelling Groups for children

Leader: Lynne Spedding (LLM)

Speaker: Martin Bancroft (LLM)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

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: TBC

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

18th December: Holy Communion

8th January: 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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFZUGR5bk1reDZOVXdaZz09)

[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFZUGR5bk1reDZOVXdaZz09](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

How to contact the office...



Phone: Landline: 01625 421984

Email addresses:

- **Isobel** clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry issues
- **Elaine** bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk for bookings and building matters
- **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

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; and Thursday 9.00 - 1.00 & 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



SCAN ME

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

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

