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Advent... Christmas is coming!

Now, before we get into the madness of preparations for Christmas let's spend a few moments considering what it is all about. This year Advent Sunday falls on 30th November and marks the beginning of the church year. According to the Church of England website "It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for movement towards a beginning."

St Michael's is always a busy place with so much going on but this time of year is especially hectic. There will be times of lovely celebrations, Carol Services, the Nativity, Crib service, the Town Carol Service, Silk Brass and many more events. So, for some it may seem a long way from the "time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope...". This is where, as Christians, we need to stop and think. We need to be determined to make time for reflecting and sharing the hopeful message of Christmas with our friends and family, either at church or home.

One way of doing this is to host the family of Mary, Joseph and the donkey as they travel on their journey to Bethlehem. Noooo, not the real Mary, Joseph and donkey, but the wooden cut-outs: the **Posada**

Posada, in slang, means "a place to crash/spend the night". In Spanish it means inn or lodging. In some Spanish-speaking countries there is a Posada festival (Las Posadas) which goes over nine days from 16th December – 24th December, the nine days represent the nine months of Mary's pregnancy.

The tradition originated in Mexico and spread to mainly South American countries. It involves a procession going to various people's houses and asking for shelter. They are refused shelter until the visitors sing a requested song and then they are admitted into the household. Maybe we could try that this year (or maybe not!). Hosting Mary, Joseph and the donkey at your house overnight can be a way of reminding us that Christmas is about the birth of Christ. It can give us at least a few minutes of "time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for movement towards a beginning."

In many households, preparations for Christmas can be madly frantic with all sorts of food, presents, decorations and plans. If you also have children in school there will be school plays, Christmas Fairs and even trips to the Pantos. All this - and working too. It can be a crazy time... and stressful. The opportunity to share a quiet evening with a visiting Christian friend could be a welcome break. This year I am suggesting something a little different which I hope may help lessen the stress of this time of year. Those of us who have fewer calls upon our time and mental energy could be the ones to transport the Posada from house to house and could carry out a short quiet activity with a prayer and candle. So, this year you can opt in to do it yourself or opt in to do it for someone else. Does that make sense?

As they travelled to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were constantly turned away from entering people's house. There are many ways of being turned away or being refused admittance, being rejected. You can be:

- Turned away for wearing the wrong clothes
- Turned away for being gay, trans, non-binary
- Turned away for being the wrong colour, the wrong faith
- Turned away for not having enough money
- Turned away for being the wrong gender
- Refugees, Asylum Seekers are turned away constantly

But how wonderful when you are finally admitted.

The instruction from the Good Book is to:

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:8-10

Please sign up for the Posada and indicate whether you are able to transport Mary, Joseph and the donkey on behalf of someone else who may be housebound or busy with family and work commitments.

Contact Tricia Atherton, or the office and Isobel will forward messages to Tricia.

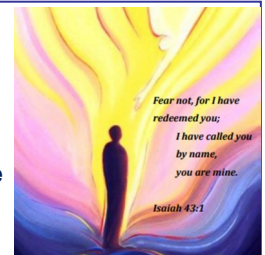
**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

Service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness

The next Healing Service is on:
**Friday 28th November 11.00am in the
Savage Chapel**

The service will last approximately 30
minutes

All are welcome.



LET'S: Sunday 16th Nov.

This Sunday (16th November) is **Let's
Eat Together Sunday**,

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



Collect for 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.

Presentation on our Net Zero plans



Working together to care
for God's creation.

Sunday 16th November after the service

At its October meeting, the Church Council heard details of what's already been achieved and what our current plans are to move St Michael's towards the goal of meeting Net Zero Carbon, and achieving Gold EcoChurch status.

The Church Council roundly agreed they'd like the presentation to be made to the whole church since it concerns EVERYONE.

So, after the morning service on Sunday 16th November, get your cup of tea or coffee and come back into the worship area to be impressed and inspired! We'll start at about 11.20.

There will of course be plenty of opportunity to ask questions, then and later.

Music@Mike's

The next concert is on Friday 21st November 1.15pm - a return visit by local folk/jazz ensemble Southland of the Heart. 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.

SilkLife Foodbank Christmas Appeal



Don't forget the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' appeal from the Foodbank. The list of suitable food items for contribution is attached to this Bulletin. There are also hard copies available in the Welcome Area.

The box for your donations (emptied several times each week) is also in the Welcome Area.

Cop 30

This meeting of most nations, NGOs and corporations currently being held in Brazil is vital to prevent further global warming, economic chaos and suffering - especially for the world's poorest. Here is part of a letter sent to all churches in our diocese by Jill Elston, the Diocesan Environmental Adviser

Dear All

Please pray for COP 30 and encourage your church to do so too. As Eco-churches we are encouraged to discuss and take action on global climate issues. This is a perfect opportunity to care for creation, to let your local MP or even the PM know how you feel about caring for creation and those who are affected the most.

The most important thing we can do is pray; here is a link to help us

[Praying during COP30](#)

And we should also act; please use this link to tell the Prime Minister not to allow any further fossil fuel exploitation in the North Sea <https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/tell-keir-starmer-stop-rosebank>



Advent Calendar

These are now ready for collection. Please see Lynne.

Please remember that a £10 contribution towards the printing and binding costs would be greatly appreciated, if you can afford this.

It is not too late to order your calendar: sign the list on the board at the back of church or contact Lynne



Silk Brass Christmas Concert

Festive music
& Carols

St. Michael's Church
Market Place, Macclesfield

Friday 19th December 8.00pm

£12 (u16 - Free)

Tickets from:

- Macclesfield Library
- On the door, on the night
- priorbooking.com/silkbrass

www.silkbrassband.co.uk



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(NOTE: RISKY. RELIES ON THE ABSTEMIOUSNESS OF OTHERS)

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Calling all who have a heart to go deeper in praise and worship.....



Hope Alive

Charismatic worship and prayer every Thursday evening at 7pm

The Upper Room, Hope Centre,
16 - 18 Park Green, Macclesfield SK11 7NA

This is a time when the Lord is reshaping the spiritual landscape of Macclesfield and beyond. We have hope in this new season. Praise and worship is so key at this time. We align ourselves with the purposes of God for this season as we sing and pray.

Let's lift high the wonderful Name of Jesus and see God bringing change to the spiritual climate.

Let's pray for Macclesfield and beyond.

1 Peter 1 vs. 3 He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Event sponsored by Good News Community Church Charity with support from the Hope Centre. For more info: 07811 117696 / info@gncmacc.org

Charities Bazaar: The Children's Society Stall



The Children's
Society

We had a very successful day and raised an amazing £492-00.50p

Thank you for all your support and generosity.

Jenny and Hil



Hil and Gill staff the stall

Holocaust Study Day at the Menorah Synagogue

Martin B., David M. and Lynne attended a study day at the Menorah Synagogue recently.

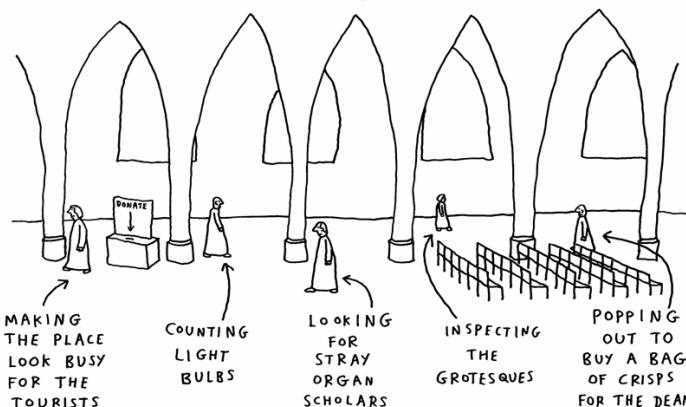
After a morning of powerful talks and presentations we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and excellent conversation with fellow attendees.

Naturally the recent attack on the North Manchester Synagogue resulting in two deaths, was high in people's minds, and we faced the reality of what high security just to enter one's place of worship means for synagogue congregations



PEOPLE IN CASSOCKS

THEY WANDER AROUND IN THE CATHEDRAL, BUT UNTIL NOW NO ONE HAS KNOWN THE NATURE OF THEIR ERRANDS



CartoonChurch.com



The Torah
Scrolls

Take heart!

Lamentations 3:22-23 ~ The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Jeremiah 29:11 ~ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

16th November 2025

Second Sunday before Advent

10:00am: Holy Communion

with Roots & Storytelling Groups for children

Including the baptism of Benji Bebbington

Leader & Speaker: Mike Strutt

Baptism Celebrant: Revd Vivien Gisby

Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

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: Wednesday 26th November

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

20th November: Holy Communion

27th November: 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



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://](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09)

[us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09)

[pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75676947476?pwd=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZ0VXdaZz09)

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



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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.

