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Bishop Sam to attend our Morning Service on 25th May.

We're delighted to be welcoming +Sam to St Michael's once again. Whilst with us, he will **confirm** Andre Nicholls and Martin Bancroft.. **As a change to our usual schedule, this**

service will also include Holy Communion

What is confirmation?

At this special service, Andre and Martin will be affirming the vows that were made on their behalf when they were baptised as babies, and making a public commitment to follow Jesus Christ. In other words they will be saying before us all that they are seeking to embody Jesus' teaching and values in the way they live their lives. Bishop Sam will lay hands on them and ask God to empower them with the Holy Spirit to help them to live this Christ-centered way of life.

For Andre, this is a significant moment in his faith journey. I still recall first meeting him when he tentatively ventured into St Michael's one Sunday morning in 2023. We rejoice with him that he has arrived at this point of wanting us all to know that he intends to live a life of committed discipleship to Christ!

For Martin, though, there's a slight difference. Indeed, some will be wondering why he's being confirmed only now, with only a few months to go until his licensing as a Reader (Sat 11th Oct). It's for the purely pragmatic reason that, although Martin has previously been confirmed, evidence of this can't be produced, and he can't be licensed without it. His confirmation will therefore be a conditional one, so slightly different to Andre's. I know though that Martin will value the opportunity it gives him to declare his faith before us all as he prepares to serve this church as a Reader.

**Confirm, O Lord, your servants
with your Holy Spirit. Amen.**



Whilst with us, +Sam will also be **commissioning** our ten 'OWLS' (Occasional Worship Leaders) and our newly formed Prayer Ministry Team (read about this elsewhere).

Serving God and His Kingdom is definitely NOT restricted to things in the church building such as worship and prayer, but I'm delighted we have these teams of trained and willing volunteers to serve us in these specific ways.

So let's give thanks to God for, and pray for his blessing on: +Sam; on those being confirmed / commissioned; as well as on our Church Family as a whole.

Mark

An Invitation to the Archdeacon's Visitation



At our church's Annual Meeting (held 23rd March this year), Rachel Mayers and Matt Lewis were elected as churchwardens, to serve St Michael's for another year. I am personally so grateful and indebted to them for all they do – including much that would be unseen to most of you.

However, although appointed by parishioners and *ex officio* Trustees of the Church Council, technically they are officers of the Bishop. Their responsibilities and duties include:

- Care of the church building and churchyard .
- Management of church assets (plate, ornaments, etc.) .
- Financial matters .
- Pastoral care of the parish and PCC .
- Ensuring good health and safety, safeguarding, and administration .
- Promoting unity and peace among parishioners .

Firstly, thank you that this last item doesn't demand much of them – *as far as I know!*

At 7.00pm on Monday 2nd June, churchwardens from our churches and elsewhere will be admitted to their posts by the Archdeacon. This is known as the **Archdeacon's Visitation**.

During this service, the archdeacon also delivers a sermon called the 'archdeacon's charge', the aim of which is to offer advice, encouragement and support to parishes in general and churchwardens in particular.

We are honoured that St Michael's has been chosen to host this special service for the deaneries of Macclesfield and Cheadle this year.

I would be delighted if a number of members from St Michael's would show their gratitude and support to our churchwardens by attending this special occasion. Thank you.

Mark

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Have you ever wondered about the history of your church building?

- Why do we have these stone "knights" around the place? Who were they?
- How is St Michael's linked to Richard III? Or Lyme Park?
- Why do we have such wonderful windows? (have you looked at them?)
- How old **is** our building?
- Who lived in the Savage Chapel Tower?



Gordon and Rachel will be around to answer these questions, and any more you might have on:

Sunday June 29th after the morning service (about 12.00)

Monday 23rd June 7.00pm

Bellringers' News

Here's a photo of the Sunday service band for May 11th – for the first time in a long time we managed to ring all 12 bells with a local band. This included two of our newest members – Hannah & Nicole. Our numbers are still low though, so if anyone is interested in learning, or knows anyone that would be interested we would love to meet you!

Mel



Can You Help?



Volunteer's Needed!

Each Bank Holiday we ask for volunteer stewards to enable the Church to be open for people visiting Macclesfield over the holiday weekend.

Why bother?

Here is a very recent review on Google from someone who visited St Michael's recently:

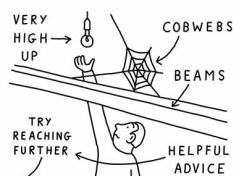
"Very first time in the UK and this was my first church and I must say, as an American, it was gorgeous. Waaay better than anything in the states. Fantastic architecture, delicate decor, and the bell. Breath taking."

Can you help welcome people like Gabriel to St Michael's in the future? Contact Elaine in the Church Office if you can (bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk)

Mark

CHURCHWARDEN OF THE YEAR

HOW THE COMPETITION IS DECIDED



ROUND ONE: LIGHT-BULB CHALLENGE



ROUND TWO: FACULTY-REGULATIONS EXAM



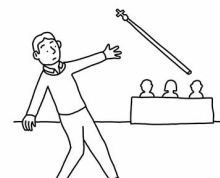
ROUND THREE: EMERGENCY LESSON-READING



ROUND FOUR: KEEPING ORDER IN THE CHURCHYARD



SEMI-FINAL: ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THE MIGHT OF HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS



FINAL: STAVE-TWIRLING

Eco-tip

Please help keep our churchyard green by watering our pots and raised beds. Our "green team" did a great job tidying and replanting last Friday - thanks again to Chris Wellavize for providing the plants.

But everything was bone dry. In this weather we need to water almost daily - so, if you find yourself in church with time to kill, fetch the watering can from behind the counter, fill it from the tap in the kitchen, and get watering! Don't forget the pots by the south door and the lonely one on the far side. The plants, and the eco-church team, will thank you for it!



Music@Mike's

The next Music@Mike's concert will be on **Friday 6th June** - another visit by the brilliant young pianist John Sabar

The concert starts at 1.15pm and will be over by 2.00pm

Entry is free; donations to St Michael's and the Hospice are welcomed.



Introducing Our New Prayer Ministry Team

I'm really excited to announce that we're launching a Prayer Ministry Team here at St Michael's a week on Sunday.



Over the past month or so, members of our church family have taken part in a dedicated time of training, learning how to minister to others through Spirit-led, compassionate, and confidential prayer. These people have committed themselves to walking alongside others in faith, listening with care, and praying in pairs with sensitivity and discernment.

Why Prayer Ministry?

Prayer is at the heart of who we are as a church. We're familiar with prayer in worship, and people leaving prayer requests in the Savage Chapel. *Did you know these cards are regularly prayed over by the fortnightly Prayer Group on alternate Wednesdays?*

Prayer Ministry will complement this by encouraging individuals to come forward for prayer themselves.

There are so many varieties of prayer within the Bible, and especially in the New Testament. Whether we are celebrating, grieving, seeking healing and wholeness, or simply needing strength for a next step, we believe that coming together in prayer invites the presence and power of God into our every situation.

This ministry is not about anyone having all the answers - it's simply about creating a safe space where people can encounter God's love, hope, and peace through prayer.

What Can You Expect?

After being commissioned by Bishop Sam on 25th May, trained members of the Prayer Ministry Team will be available in mixed-gender pairs at the end of our Church Family Worship to pray with anyone who would like support.

All prayer ministry will be offered confidentially, respectfully, and sensitively, with the focus always on Jesus. All team members are DBS checked and have completed Safeguarding Training.

How You Can Get Involved

- Come forward for prayer when it's offered – the Team is here for you.
- Encourage others to do likewise.
- Pray for the team as they begin this new ministry.



If you have any questions about Prayer Ministry, please feel free to contact me, talk to a Team member (though not when they're on duty!), or seek out Sue Olley who is heading up the Team on our behalf.

Encountering God through St Michael's

I'm so grateful for how God is at work among us, and I look forward to seeing and hearing how He will continue to move through this new step in the life of our church.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." – Colossians 4:2

Mark

Revd Martin Stephens

Homemakers

The next meeting of Homemakers will be the Annual Planning Meeting.

This will be held on Thursday 22nd of May at 7:30pm at the home of Greeba Jones. Tel: 427085.



Buton Warehouse: Quiz Evening in aid of St Mike's



The quiz is on **26th May (Bank Holiday Monday) 7:00pm - ish** start (doors at 6:30pm) at **The Button Warehouse (44-48 Chestergate).**

All monies taken on the night go to a chosen charity for the month, this month being St Mike's.

The quizmaster is particularly dapper and entertaining!

Teams of up to six.

If anyone wishes to form a team and participate, please email info@thebuttonwarehouse.co.uk

Four Churches Challenge – Saturday 31st May



Rev Simon Gowler, Vicar of Rainow and St Paul's, is organising a challenge walk starting at one of his churches, Jenkin Chapel, at 9.30am, walking to Rainow for a "bacon butt" stop and then onto Forest Chapel where there will be some tea available.

The plan is to sing a hymn or two there before the final leg to St Paul's when a reviving cup of tea and a biscuit will be available. (Simon joined us for part of our pilgrimage last Autumn around Rainow)

It will be possible to sort out lifts back to Jenkin Chapel, etc. at the time and people are of course free to just do one or two of the legs if they prefer, or simply join the walkers at the stops.

Please let Lynne or Paul know if you are interested so they can pass on your details to Simon.



LET'S: 18th May

The next 'Let's Eat Together' Sunday is this week, 18th May.

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.



Stewards for Evening Events – Could You Help?

St Michael's is a popular venue for evening concerts (and a few different types of event). We like to show our welcome by having stewards (usually two) to provide "the welcoming face of St Michael's", and to ensure that the organisers have everything they need to help the event run smoothly. Many of our hirers have been many times before and know the building well, occasionally a little more help is needed.



At the moment we are really short of people who are willing to do this: ideally we would have enough people willing to do this, so that we wouldn't have to call on them more than once or twice each year – at the moment this is falling on a small number.

We ensure that everyone has training beforehand (and back-up is always available by phone). The next training session will be on Tuesday 10th June at 6.30pm. Please contact Elaine (bookings@...) if you would like to find out more about what is involved.

The reward is free attendance at the event. If you need transport home after an evening event this will be paid for.

Rachel

Donation of Wine to St Michael's

We have recently received a very generous donation of wine. The donor has emigrated and left 90 bottles to St Michael's for us to sell to raise funds for the church. We have a temporary licence for this sale and are offering this wine in 17 lots to members of the congregation and friends of St Michael's.



If you think you might be interested in buying some wine and supporting church funds at the same time then please contact me for full details.

Paul Simms, paul@lowerbeechfarm.co.uk, 07879 446906

Forthcoming KEMS Concerts

**Orchestral Concert with
soloists from Orchestra:**

**KEMS Macclesfield
Symphony
Orchestra**

Saturday 17th May 2025 - 7:30pm at St Michael's Church

- Vlatava - Moldau Bedřich Smetana
- Sextet for 2 Horns and Strings Ludwig von Beethoven
- 4 Lachian Dances Leoš Janáček
- Symphony No 8 Antonin Dvořák

KEMS Macclesfield Singers

MACCLESFIELD SINGERS - Choir Concert

Saturday 7th June 2025 - 7.30 pm at St Michael's

'Feel the Spirit' - a variety of spirituals including extracts from John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* plus other arrangements.

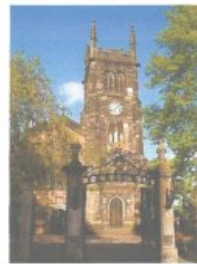
Tickets: £15. Under 18s free

In Concert

Silk Brass

**PLAYING A VARIETY OF
POPULAR MUSIC**

Supporting St. Michael's and the Community



**Proceeds from sale
of tickets to go to
St Michael's
Lighting Fund**

**St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield
Saturday 31st May at 7.30pm**

Tickets £12 (u16 free) from:

- Macc Visitor Centre (in the Library)
- On the door on the night
- priorbooking.com/silkbrass

www.silkbrassband.co.uk



CIO No. 1207294

TFW 'A Mind of Their Own' Event



**Thursday 19th
June 7:30pm to
10:00 pm**

Tytherington Family Worship are hosting a Care for the Family event called 'A Mind of Their Own' and they'd love it if parents, grandparents and carers in and around Macclesfield could come along.

In an age where mental health issues amongst our young people are so prevalent, this evening promises to be really helpful and supportive.

Young people are facing unprecedented levels of pressure, from school, from their phones and from their peers. All of which are having a detrimental effect on their mental health.

A Mind of Their Own will give parents, carers, and anyone working with young people, practical and preventative tools to understand these pressures and help children build strong emotional resilience and healthy mental wellbeing.

Here's the link to the Care for The Family website for more info and to book a ticket.

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/touevents/a-mind-of-their-own/>

Early bird tickets cost £6 per person, which increases to £11 from 23rd May.

Join us for *Worship*



Sunday Worship

18th May 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am: Holy Communion

Leader: LLM Mike Strutt

Speaker & Celebrant: Revd Vivien Gisby

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 28th May

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

22nd May: Holy Communion

29th May: 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=R2twT2pQbTFzUGR5bk1reDZoVXdaZz09)

[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 9.00-3.00; and Thursday & Friday 9.00 - 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.

