

MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY MAGAZINE

LINK

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

FREE



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 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcome to Macclesfield Team Ministry

Macclesfield Team Ministry is a family of four churches that are located in the town of Macclesfield and are part of the Church of England. We are four different communities of people seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and trying to bring wholeness and healing to the wider town.



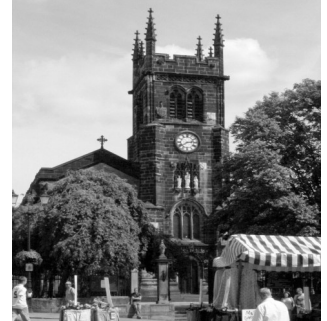
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FROM THE CLERGY

Have you heard how to make God laugh? Simply tell him your plans!

By now, if everything's gone to plan, I will have been inducted and installed as Team Rector of Macclesfield. I will also have met many new people and grappled to learn names, and possibly even put the right name to the right face (sorry Mike!)

That's if everything has gone to plan! But, as John Lennon sang: "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans."

Our move to Macclesfield didn't fully go to plan: the loading up at Stoke took longer than planned; we trust it wasn't planned for us to have no gas supply for the first 5 days of being here (*sorry if you were delayed by the roadworks outside our home early September*); and after several days with an intermediate number, the Rectory now has the correct phone number (426110) and broadband too!

Thankfully everything's now settling down at home. The packing boxes have gone, we've found places for all those less frequently used things, and we've nearly managed to explore the full extent of our garden!

So, having arrived and started work as your new Team Rector, as the family and I adjust to living in Macclesfield, I trust you and I will enjoy getting to know, and learn more about, each other. I'll start!

I grew up in a Christian home, and have attended church all my life (*I was christened at 6 weeks old*). I chose to study Electrical & Electronic Engineering at university .. because I planned to be rich. It was also a time when I planned to stop attending church .. but then I discovered other people my age whose faith seemed more alive than mine. With their support, aged 19, I chose to follow Jesus for myself (rather than 'because my parents did'), and I've never regretted it.

Jesus says He came to bring us life, an abundant life, life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Catherine and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary next year; we've three beautiful, life-giving daughters; and we've found ourselves in places we wouldn't have imagined living, including Macclesfield. Indeed, there was one place (not Macclesfield) we agreed we didn't like .. yet five years later God moved us there! *How do you make God laugh?*

Yes, there have been times of difficulty and stress too, times of uncertainty, but above and beyond, we have learnt to lean on God through Jesus Christ and trust in Him. Why? Because He is faithful, and because His plans are better than our plans (Isa.55:8-



9).

For however long we will be in Macclesfield, for however long God keeps us here, I hope we may all seek to know Him better, and seek His ways for us, for our churches, and for the wider community we serve.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer.29:11)

With every blessing
Martin



Induction of Revd Martin Stephens as Team Rector

16 September
2016



Top left: Revd Martin
Stephens and Catherine
Stephens

Above: Revd Martin
Stephens with the Mayor
of Macclesfield, Councillor
Alift Harewood-Jones, and
the Mayor's consort, Peter
Jones



Left: Rev Martin Stephen
with Revd William
Pwaisiho, Hon Assistant
Bishop of Chester, and
Revd Canon Veronica
Hydon, Rural Dean of
Macclesfield

Silence and Honey Cakes

The Wisdom of the Desert

In former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams' brilliant book *Silence and Honey Cakes*, he writes about what we can learn from a group called the Desert Fathers and Mothers.

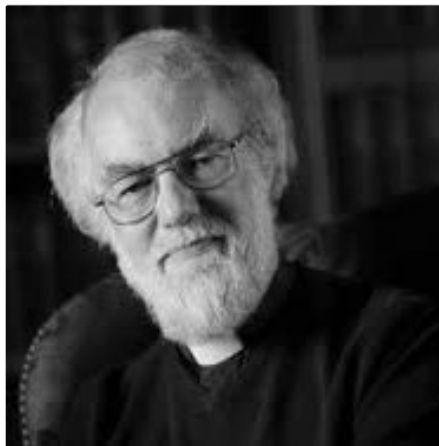
In the 3rd century Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire and the church began tailoring its values and practices accordingly.

The Desert Fathers and Mothers were men and women who took themselves off to the deserts of Egypt to live lives of poverty, chastity and contemplation. In essence, they formed a counter culture which contrasted with the decadent, urban religion of the empire. Here in the desert they sought simplicity, holiness and a genuine sense of what it meant to be a new creation rather than just believing a new faith. The desert was a harsh, dangerous place where education, beauty, wealth, connections and appearance had no power against the wilderness.

The emphasis in their communities was on stripping off falsehoods, accepting your flaws and appetites and learning how to live without them. There are obvious echoes of Jesus' own experience in the wilderness

following his baptism where his survival and sense of identity are not founded in the promises of Satan but rather in the Word of God.

Silence and Honey Cakes is a rewarding read because in it



Williams tells a truth about the Christian life: our life as a disciple is about learning how to live as a new creation while still shaking off the old. And we find it very tempting to keep as much of the old life as possible while trying to make it holy by dragging Jesus into it. Instead, as the hermits of the desert discovered, we need to keep a constant watch on our lives, guarding against the old, comfortable, familiar patterns which threaten to overwhelm the

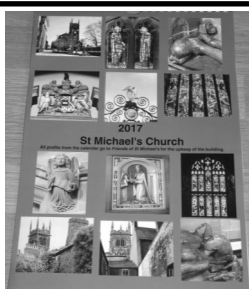
new.

Perhaps it is because of this struggle that we create saints (both religious and secular). We like the idea that someone has "made it", but that can only be part of the story. Saints seem very remote from us, like VIPs in a club or royalty visiting a town. It is easy to see them from afar as those who occupy a place we could never reach.

Williams shakes us out of that sort of complacency with a good dose of desert wisdom: "...the saint isn't someone who makes us think, 'That looks hard; that's a heroic achievement of will' – with the inevitable accompanying thought, 'that's too hard for me!' – but someone who makes us think, 'How astonishing! Human lives can be like that, behaviour like that can look quite natural' –with perhaps the thought 'How can I find what they have found?'"

When our thinking and subsequent behaviour begins to take that seriously, we discover what being a new creation is truly all about.

Revd Dave Mock



**St Michael's
2017 Calendar**
in aid of Friends of St
Michael's. Now on sale for £5.
All profits will go towards
maintaining the fabric of the
church building.

Available from the St Michael's Church Office or
by contacting Emma Kingdom on 07747 441044.

Have you any unwanted toiletries?

The Macclesfield Children's Society Committee are once again manning a stall at the Charities' Bazaar on 19th November.

We are seeking your unwanted toiletries to Christmas wrap and re-sell on our stall. If you can donate any items, please pass them on to Jenny Wild or Hilary Helliwell at St Michael's, Gill Philipson at St Peter's, or call Jenny Wild on 07755 779968.

Zero Waste Week 2016

Zero Waste Week took place in the first week of September. It is a grassroots campaign which raises awareness of the environmental impact of waste, and educates and inspires communities to reduce waste.

By taking simple steps we can all be part of the solution to reduce waste through reuse, recycling and repurposing materials. As a community, together we can all contribute to reduce waste production.

This year's theme is "Use it up!" which targets food waste. Here are some ideas you can take part in as a family or a community:

A neighbourhood litter pick

Litter is unsightly, not to mention being a threat to local wildlife. Litter Action offers guidelines on organising a community litter pick (litteraction.org.uk/infocentre/cleanup).

Cookery demonstrations

The average UK family disposes of around £50 of food a month. As a nation we waste £12.5bn a year on food we buy and throw away. Work together to highlight proper portion control and ways to use up leftovers in meals. Love Food Hate Waste has lots of suggestions: (lovefoodhatewaste.com).

Start a church lending library

For some occasions such as DIY, parties or holidays, you only need tools or equipment for a short period of time. A lending library is a great way to share 'once a year' items like carpet cleaners, garden shredders or ladders.

Hold a repair café

There's a lack of everyday skills that were once common place. You could hold community groups to learn how to fix small electrical items, tyre punctures and toy

repairs. This is a fun way to learn new skills and prevent things going to landfill.

Sophie Molyneux

Get LINK online

www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

Climate Change: Why should you care?

**Thursday 29th September
7.30pm
Macclesfield Methodist Church
Westminster Road**

A simple and compelling presentation on the facts about global warming by Dr Colin Fenwick based on extensive research. This event is supported by Macclesfield Churches.

What happens to all that plastic? (and what to do about it)

The average UK household gets through 500 plastic bottles a year, and an unknown but much greater amount of other plastic packaging. The majority of this cannot be (or is not) recycled. Most ends up in landfill, where it will sit for generations (there is no such thing as a bio-degradable plastic). Almost all of the plastic ever created still exists, much of it in the form of the 50 trillion particles now floating on the surface of our oceans.

You can now buy re-usable

coffee cups (keepcup.com) which fit under any coffee machine; so if you can't get through a day without a visit to Costa then at least take your own cup - it will make an immediate talking point.

Water, of course, is famously available for free from a tap; and there are a plethora of available re-usable bottles. You should never need to buy bottled water.

Charging for plastic bags in supermarkets has made a significant impact on the number of bags going into landfill, but you can reduce that figure still further

by buying one of the St Michael's Open Door/Hope hessian shopping bags which will soon be available at an amazing bargain price. Look out for them!

David Mayers



WHAM Nightshelter: Volunteers Needed



Last year St Michael's hosted a nightshelter (WHAM) for rough sleepers on three weekends. We hope to do the same again this year.

A total of 36 volunteers were involved in covering the 90 shifts required. Most of these were members of St Michael's, and both 9.30 and 11.00 congregations were well represented. It was a good opportunity to get to know each other much better, especially on the overnight shifts. Members of other churches in the Team Ministry helped with the shelter both at St Michael's and at other participating churches, and many of the St Michael's volunteers also did shifts at other churches.

One of our hosting weekends was the coldest and busiest weekend with a total of eight guests sheltered on the busiest night – a maximum. Some of the meals were provided by our Girlguiding Senior Section which gave them an opportunity to discover more about the work of the church to which they are associated, and do a "service" project - and a project that wasn't just "service" but also practising cooking. It also gave them an opportunity to help some of the neediest members of our community.

We are hoping to run the shelter over 14 weekends this coming winter and hope that the

same churches (St Michael's, St Albans, Elim, Macclesfield Methodists, The Salvation Army and The United Reformed Church) will take part. We would like one other church but above all **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**

If you would like to know more about volunteering, please talk to Rachel Mayers or David Wightman. Training will be given. It is rewarding, often challenging, and can be good fun.

Revd David Wightman

WANTED

**STREET
angels**

macclesfield

We work together with the management of Macclesfield Town Centre and the Police to help people, whoever they are and whatever their situation, by listening, caring, offering practical help or referring them to specialist agencies.

Without our volunteers we cannot run this valuable service. We urgently need more volunteers for this role. If you are interested to know more, please speak to David Wightman on 07770 785188.

Our Church Community

Email
linkteammagazine@gmail.com



Aiva, Isla, Evie, Heidi and Noel enjoying their last week at St Michael's afternoon Toddler Group. Our love and prayers go with them as they start school. If you are able to help with the Thursday afternoon Toddler Group on a regular basis, please contact Ruth Parker on 613068.



On Sunday 14th August, All Saints Church celebrated the diamond wedding anniversary of Pat & Jim Magnall. The congregation sang a hymn which was originally sung at Pat & Jim's wedding 60 years ago. The couple then renewed their wedding vows and the congregation supported them. After the service Pat and Jim cut into a celebration cake to mark the occasion.



Donkey rides from St Michael's at August's Treacle Market with PCSO Karen Watson.



St Michael's is grateful to receive £2,000 from Macclesfield Town Council towards the cost of refurbishment work to the chandeliers. David Smith is pictured receiving the cheque from Councillor Adam Schofield.



Despite the weather, the Parish Cricket Team has enjoyed another season of exciting cricket and sociable chat at the bar.

The rain prevented us from starting three games, and forced another to be abandoned half way through; but we did manage to play matches against Macclesfield College staff and Tytherington Family Worship (both narrow defeats), as well as two club games.

Perhaps the highlight of the season was “on tour” to Yorkshire where we played St George’s Church from Leeds at their amazingly picturesque ground in the park at Harewood House. As we are used to playing a 20-20 format, there was some doubt about our ability to bat for 30 overs, but we rose to the challenge and scored a highly creditable total of 179 for 7. Then



tidy bowling and tigerish fielding restricted St George’s to 164 for 4 in their 30 overs. A famous victory against the Yorkshire giants!

This year the team has included players from All Saints, St Peter’s and St Michael’s, as well as friends and family, with ages from 12 to

72. We welcome interest from anyone with a love of cricket. You don’t have to play; we always need scorers, umpires and, most of all, supporters.

David Mayers

As part of the Heritage Open Days, St Peter’s opened its bell tower on Thursday 8th September. The bells at St Peter’s were cast as a war memorial following a public subscription. 2017 will see the 70th anniversary of their installation. The total cost of the bells in 1947 was £1100 18s 2d.



The Team Ministry runs two football teams (for adult men, 16+) in the South Manchester

and Cheshire Christian Football League: Macclesfield Parish and MP St Peter’s. This year both were playing in Division Three (of four).

Both enjoyed successful seasons, but in only their second season our “reserve team”, St Peter’s, achieved the amazing outcome of winning the title and promotion

for the second successive season.

Of course, one of the fundamental tenets of playing football in this league is that “winning is not everything”, but a bit of success does make it even more enjoyable.

You can keep up with the fixtures and results for the new season at www.leaguewebsite.co.uk/smccfl

For further information, please contact David Mayers (davidjmayers@btinternet.com) or any of the management team of James Booth, Colin Smith, Jonny Porter and Andy Durrant.

Link

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Link. If you would like to submit news, an article or photos, please email linkteammagazine@gmail.com or hand in your contribution at the Team Office.

The deadline for the December/January edition is **11th November 2016**.

The views expressed in this edition of Link do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or the PCCs of the churches.

A World Away... ?

Rebuilding the Church in South Sudan

You may recall a brief account, in one of the issues of Link last year, of Rachel Bradley's trip to Uganda with Rhona Marshall and the folk from Tytherington Family Worship Church. At one of the church services over there, Rachel met Pastor Isaac Yangara, who had come from Yambio in the Western Equatorial District of South Sudan. Like Rachel and the others, he was visiting Uganda. Isaac explained that he was the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Yambio, which is a new church in the world's newest country.

Invariably when South Sudan appears in the news it is in connection with the on-going civil war and the struggle to maintain law and order. It is suspected that the rebel attacks are supported by Basheer through Islamic groups based in Central African Republic. For whatever motive, the attacks



A young child taking refuge in the bushes with her family

are indiscriminate; churches and townships have been destroyed, and Isaac's ministry embraces a community familiar with live rounds and burnt-out buildings.

In December 2015, we received an email from Isaac describing the attack on his community. The

civilians had to flee to the bushes to stay safe. They had no clean water or shelter.

When the trouble went away, they returned to rebuild homes and the church and shortly afterwards saw a powerful revival, seeing over fifty baptisms.

Sadly, the civil war broke out again in June this year but was generally confined to capital Juba. This time Isaac and his community were not directly affected but they saw many "internally displaced persons" who depended upon them for support.

I think my first reaction to all of this was a sense of privilege to be given contact with a people who, by any standards, are on the 'front line' of Christian mission today. Pastor Isaac's emails could easily be read as Chapter 29 of the book of Acts, and they evoke passages such as Heb13:3 and The New Commandment.

It was with these thoughts that it seemed right to explore the



The destruction caused by the attacks



Civilians living in the bush without shelter whilst their village was destroyed

possibility of closer contact between our churches: The First Baptist Church Yambio and our team.

Initial responses from Isaac and his people and some of our members have been encouraging. As to precisely how his may roll out or where it may lead, we don't know but it may give opportunities for partnerships in prayer, culture and resources with a church on the frontier. I feel that we may have much to learn from these people.

So, to anyone who may be interested in progressing a closer relationship with Pastor Isaac and his church, or just for further information, please get in touch with either Rachel or me so that we may seek the guidance to move forward.

Peter Bradley



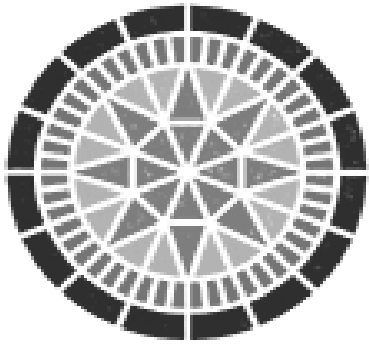
Rebuilding the church

**If you would like to be involved with this project
please contact Rachel or Peter Bradley**

T: 01625 427047

E: rachelcbradley@yahoo.co.uk

E: peterbradleyfree@yahoo.co.uk



GREENBELT

26-29 AUGUST 2016

SILENT * STARS

We went to Greenbelt! This year it celebrated 43 years of music, film, poetry, visual arts, comedy, circus skills, fire eating, space stations, ukelele-playing, creativity and thousands of thought provoking ideas, new experiences, people of faith (and none) from all walks of life, huge names and silent stars.

Greenbelt challenges preconceived ideas of Christianity and gives you the opportunity to explore new ideas. The really big thing that I like about the Greenbelt ethos is the breadth and depth of ideas. There is no proselytising, there is no condemnation of anyone's beliefs, there is a celebration of life in all

its fullness and richness of human experience. Every year there are new challenges to be faced on a personal, national and international level.

Just some of the topics covered include: the refugee and migration crisis, children in care, and dementia.

A highlight for me was the closing act of the festival - Hope and Social, the band anyone can join. They came to Barnaby Festival this year and it was wonderful to see them again at Greenbelt. Such energy, enthusiasm for celebrating life and music. They held workshops during the day and anyone who wanted to could join them on main stage that night.

This year I didn't get along to the family activities but I can assure families that there is plenty to do and explore in a safe place. Children, who go to Greenbelt with their families, often return with their student friends and then families of their own. The Sunday morning communion was organised and led by children: it was entitled 'A Little Child Shall Lead Them'. They started off the service by telling jokes and it went on from there into thoughtful and compassionate worship. The Archbishop of Canterbury was interviewed by the children and you can watch the event at greenbelt.org.uk

Tricia Atherton





The Cre8 programme on the Moss Rose Estate was alive with music, art, stories, food and celebrations during its recent Festival to celebrate young people and community and 10 years of Cre8.

The theme for the week was True Light. Activities included: a Youth Music Event at St Michael's Church - run and featuring performances by young people from the Cre8 project; storytelling at The Park Tavern on the theme of 'Light'; community games evening; free lunches and opportunities to meet the Cre8 team; a local business supporters evening; and the reopening of the community wildlife area. The finale of the festival was a hog roast and celebration evening showcasing Cre8's activities over the last year.

The Festival was very much a community event, organised and run by young people, adults and families involved with the Cre8 project over the last 10 years.

The week of activities - held from 11th to 17th June - was enjoyed by



over 250 people, including David Rutley MP, Lord Lieutenant David Briggs MBE, High Sheriff of Cheshire Kathy Cowell OBE, and the Mayor of Macclesfield Cllr Alift Harewood-Jones.

To find out more about Cre8 and how you can make a difference in your local community visit www.cre8macclesfield.org or call us on 01625 503740.

Katy Wardle



Think you know Cre8?

Cre8 is about Faith, Change and Community. We work with young people, their families and the wider community to help people make change happen.

The Cre8 Festival is a week packed full of music, food, stories, workshops, parties, and art installations; all involving young people from the Moss Rose Estate. You might think you know what Cre8 does, but actually we do all this...

run two profit making businesses that fund our charity ~ train local people to become youth workers ~ we were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for organisations) ~ the Christian principles of working, learning, and eating run through everything we do ~ help young people to get back into school ~ lead national youth work learning days ~ employ young people and adults ~ run bike rides ~ provide placements for students from Youth Work and Christian study courses ~ run three youth clubs ~ renovated a derelict community building using in-house skills and workers ~ take young people on life-changing residential ~ support adults, families and young people as they journey through life ~ practically support the Moss Rose Community ~ help young people to write their own music and lyrics ~ hold youth music concerts throughout the year ~ provide alternative education to young people across Cheshire (and sometimes wider!) ~ build sheds for the Iona Community ~ have featured in the Archbishop of York's book 'Hope Stories' and loads more!



Cre8 stories: Owen



I first got involved with Cre8 when I was in primary school and I started off going to the bike shed at The House. I went weekly and learnt a lot of useful skills. I learnt how to build a bike from scratch and how to fix it if it was broken, as well as making bikes. Whilst there one of the volunteers helped me to make a small wooden box that I still use today.

After I got more involved with Cre8, I started attending the primary school age club and whilst there I made new friends, I learnt how to sew using a sewing machine and I made a pillow in the end. After some young people stopped coming to Primary Club and it got down to maybe me and two other people. I still went every week. I carried on attending because I enjoyed it, it helped me grow in confidence and in maturity.

Just because there were only three people attending didn't stop us from going on trips; Tom and Rob took us on a canal boat ride, one day. One time we stayed the night and even had time to make a den of sticks, we then had the day trip back. I will always remember that weekend. After I left primary

school and went into high school, I still attended Cre8 but went to the older club.

As my life got busier and things changed for me, I started going to the Cre8 Music project. Music was all I wanted to do. Tom and Tim taught me something I will never forget - how to play the guitar. After a couple of months I had learned quite a few songs.

Halfway through my first year at high school, I went on my first proper residential with Cre8; Camas. I only just got to go, even though I was too young, there was a spare place. Whilst there I learnt how to make fires, rock climb and abseil, I learnt how to catch and gut fish, which was one of my most memorable moments at Camas.

When I went into Year 8 at school, I carried on going to Cre8 music sessions; learning guitar in lessons with Tim. I also went to Camas again that year, I think that it was really generous of Tom to let me go again. Going to Camas is such an amazing opportunity that some people don't appreciate. A few weeks after getting back from Camas, I was asked if I wanted to go to Greenbelt Festival with some other guys from the music project

and I said yes! Because it was my first time going Greenbelt, I was allowed to go for free, which I am really grateful for.

More recently I played in the Cre8 Youth Music Concert, where I helped my friend Matt with his song. Pretty scary getting up on stage playing guitar in a band but it was good.

This year I started volunteering at Cre8 because I was doing The Duke Of Edinburgh Award. I asked Tom if it was OK for me to do the volunteering part at Cre8's primary club and he said it was fine. I started volunteering weekly and this has helped me grow in maturity.

I think that Cre8 is important because it helps children mature and grow into good young adults. I continue to volunteer and attend Cre8 because it has helped me become who I am today and it will continue to help through my teenage life. Cre8 has helped me through some tough times and I hope that it can help other people through tough times too. That is why Cre8 is an amazing youth club and will continue to be an amazing youth club.

Owen



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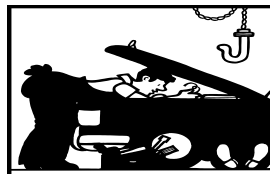
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w: www.paw-pals.co.uk/cheshireeast

Events & Notices

Police Surgery

with PCSO Karen Watson

29th September 2016

6th October 2016

3 November 2016

10:30am - 12 noon at St Michael's

Sausages for Saints

Free family food event
Tuesday 1st November
 4.30pm - 6.30pm
 at St Michael's Church

Church or hall bookings

All Saints

Jim Donaldson 01625 619050

jacjim@ntlworld.com

St Barnabas

Jonathan Aiken 07515 410170

jonathanstewartaikem@gmail.com

St Michael's

Emma Kingdom: 01625 421984

stmichaelscoordinator@gmail.com

St Peter's

Mike Boardman: 01625 428646

Deadline for Shoebox Appeal: 17th November

Please bring completed boxes to St Michael's Church
 For details please contact Sue Reid on 01625 421984



The Colours of Christmas

Floral Design Evening with Mark Entwistle

In support of the Cre8 Youth & Community Project
in Macclesfield

Thursday 17th November
7.30pm at The Tytherington Club

Tickets £20 includes canapes & a glass of
sparkling wine.

Entry is by ticket only. For tickets please contact Cre8 on
01625 503740 - hello@cre8macclesfield.org
or Anne Kite on 01625 424531 - kiteanne@btinternet.com

Mark is a Floral
Designer and
Gold Medal
Winner at both
RHS Chelsea
and RHS Tatton
Shows.



www.cre8macclesfield.org

Our Church Toddler Groups

WEDNESDAYS

St Peter's Church 'Take a Break'

9.30am to 11.00am

Gillian Rushton: 01625 612426

All Saints Church '0-5 Club'

1.30pm to 3.00pm

Shirley Hill: 01625 426874

THURSDAYS

St Michael's Church

10.00am to 11.30am

Ruth Parker: 01625 613068

There is a vacancy for a volunteer to help
with an afternoon group from 1.00pm to
2.00pm: see page 8.

Music at Mike's

30th September 2016 at 1.15pm
25th November 2016 at 1.15pm

A programme of concerts at St Michael's for
your entertainment by King's School musicians.
Free admission and light refreshments served.

St Michael's is Open Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 12.30pm. Call in for a look round or refreshments.

Services in October & November

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 27th November
6.30pm
St Michael's Church

Midweek Communion

Thursdays
10.30am
St Michael's Church



Hospital Services

Sunday 9th October - Revd Barry Langman
Sunday 30th October - Revd Martin Stephens
Sunday 13th November - Fran Hiles
11.00am
St Luke's Chapel,
Macclesfield Hospital

Have you ever thought about helping support patients who come to worship? Can help out on a weekly or more occasional basis? For more information please contact Vicky & Gordon Darlington T: 01625 428215



Healing Service

**Service of Prayer
for Healing & Wholeness**

Friday 7th October
Friday 4th November
12.30pm
St Michael's Church



This service will last about half an hour and all are welcome. It contains intercessions for those who are sick or grieving and there will be an opportunity for those who wish to receive prayer with laying on of hands.

Messy Church

1st October
5th November
3rd December
4.00pm - 6.00pm
All Saints Church



It's a once a month time of creativity, worship and eating together for families for whom traditional Sunday Services don't work.

A Service of Remembering

A service which offers a focus of thanksgiving for those who have died and whose memories we continue to hold dear.

Sunday 23rd October
4pm
St Michael's Church

Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Sundays	All Saints Brough Street West	St Barnabas Lyme Avenue	St Michael & All Angels In the Market Place	St Peter's Windmill Street
2nd October Trinity 19	9.30am Informal Worship	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
9th October Trinity 20	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am All Age Worship	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
16th October Trinity 21	9.30am Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Worship for All
23rd October Last after Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 4.00pm A Service of Remembering	9.30am Holy Communion
30th October All Saints	9.30am Fifth Sunday	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Service - Informal Worship	No service
6th November 3rd before Advent	9.30am Informal Worship	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
13th November 2nd before Advent Remembrance	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am All Age Worship	9.30am Storytelling Service 10.45am Remembrance Service 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
20th November Christ the King	9.30am Morning Worship	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
27th November 1st Sunday of Advent	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Service - Informal Worship 6.30pm Advent Carol Service	9.30am Worship for All

My Journey with God (so far)

Judith Whittingham

I've very much been brought up through the Church of England. I attended the parish church in Middleton, North Manchester, with my parents and had a CofE education all the way through school. When I moved to Macclesfield 12 years ago one of my first jobs was to find a new church and when I walked in to St Mike's, it felt like home.

Belonging is very important, and when we first came to Macclesfield not knowing a soul, I attended 0-5 toddlers at All Saints. Later that week, the vicar Rod saw us in the street and said "Hello Judith and Molly". It made a big impression, and when we started attending St Michael's the same thing happened. Bishop Libby spoke of a similar experience at the start of her journey in Christ at Molly's confirmation.

My mum was a very strong influence on my faith. She had a very strong belief, as had her parents before her. Apparently when my Dad asked my grandfather if he would give him his blessing to marry my mum, he replied, "Come with us to church on Sunday and then I'll give you my answer"!

Dad was brought up a Unitarian, but it was a lovely moment when my brother, mum and I all stood around the font one day in my teens being godparents to him as he was baptised into the Church of England. Shortly after he was confirmed, so he could become church warden.

Mum was always hosting home groups at our house and it soon moved on to her leading them. Much later she offered one-to-one healing prayer time in the church after services. It's always been a regret not asking her more about that area of her faith, but then we weren't expecting her to die so young. But having said that, one of my biggest learning curves in my faith came through her death.

Till then, yes I'd attended church and been to many other denominations' services, I'd sat in on Mum's home groups, been on church weekends away, and done years of Sunday school, but it was all still quite superficial. Her death made me realise who or what the Holy Spirit was. It didn't come as a bolt of lightning as soon as she died, but more as a reflective realisation over the months that followed. It had been upon, amongst and within me throughout the whole ordeal.

I'd prayed for directions and safety to get me to the hospital, which was 40 miles away: no satnav, and just me in the driving seat fearing, and finding the worst.



Judith on the St Michael's camping weekend

That night, struggling to sleep, I prayed and felt my hair being stroked as my mum used to when I'd had a bad dream.

Since then I've found my faith has become much stronger and has more purpose. I still lose my way from time to time, but I enjoy worship through singing, contemplation and group prayer, in which I really feel the presence of God. (If the room starts to spin during prayer please let me know, I've only found one other person this happens to.) But the main strength is from being part of a church family. It is both giving and receiving help and support and sharing our faith which I find really special here. So thank you. Your task now is to reflect on your day or week and think, when was the Holy Spirit nudging you subtly and saying "Hey, I'm right here!"?

Judith is a member of the 9.30am service at St Michael's