

CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

FREE

Watching and waiting this Advent and Christmas tide...



Wishing all our Link readers
a peaceful and joyful
Advent and Christmas

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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.



All Saints
Brough Street West
Macclesfield
SK11 8EL



St Barnabas
Lyme Avenue
Macclesfield
SK11 7RS



St Peter's
Windmill Street
Macclesfield
SK11 7HS



St Michael & All Angels
Market Place
Macclesfield
SK10 1DY

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teamrector.macc@gmail.com

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Church or hall bookings

All Saints
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St Peter's
Mike Boardman: 01625 428646

From the clergy

Events to help us remember, reflect and look forward.



As I write this, the town has just commemorated the centenary of the Armistice. Several thousands of people, of all ages, gathered around the Cenotaph on Park Green, 100 years to the hour from when the guns fell silent to mark the end of the First World War.

You will have seen the variety of poppies on display around the area, from the large ones on lampposts to those made from plastic bottles on the painted mural at Park Green, as well as the literally hundreds of knitted poppies included in various displays around the town. With wonderful creativity, we have been helped to recognise the human cost of war on a very personal level as initiatives such as Aftermath 100's Poppy Display, which mapped the homes where fallen soldiers from Macclesfield had once lived.

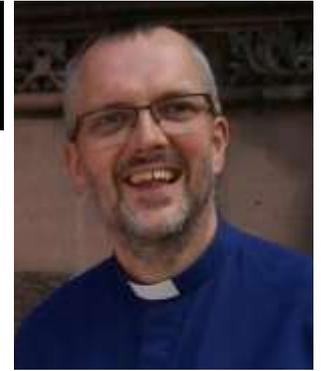
It's a delight to acknowledge the

work of many people who devised a programme of exhibitions, concerts and activities (including making and flying kites), under the title 'Building the Peace'. Initiated by the late David Wightman, this was an impressive project of co-operation and commitment between artists, musicians, poets, schoolchildren and other young people.

This year in particular we have been invited not only to remember the past and reflect on the impact of war, but to look for and work towards a better future.

And soon it will be Christmas.

I wonder how, for many people, this Christmas will be pretty similar to previous years? For some there are the personal or family traditions – perhaps going out to buy a real tree, visiting a Christmas market, or watching a particular Christmas movie. Familiar ways to celebrate the season. Similarly, each of our churches have a level of seasonal 'routines', regular ways of marking the season – be they with Christingles, carols or food. I hope you will join in with many of these opportunities.



In doing so we remember the past event of the birth of Jesus – God in human form – an event of global yet personal significance. A birth for all time which changed the recording of time. An event from the past for us to reflect upon in the present.

Our retelling of the nativity, of the journeying of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, of the birth of Jesus and his revelation to lowly nearby shepherds and to travellers from afar invites us to take it all in and ponder – to reflect upon the significance for ourselves of God becoming human. Yes, it's a 'cute' story – especially when acted out by our children or grandchildren, but it's also an account with an edge. At the school or church nativity, we are not invited simply to stand and watch the actors, but to become like them in their natural openness to the things of God: "Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 18:3)

May you have a blessed Christmas.

Martin



Recent Christenings at St Michael's - October 2018



Karen with baby Zoe

Zoe's christening felt personal as we were able to help to input into the service and choose some of the hymns. Rev. Karen took a great deal of trouble to make sure our older son, George, was included throughout with some important jobs to help with. Lots of people commented on how lovely it was and most importantly Zoe enjoyed herself and didn't cry at all! - Parents Lynn & Roger



Zoe with proud parents

I liked all the jobs I had to help with at Zoe's christening - Big brother George



Baby Zayn with Mum, Emma and Godfather Mark (left) and the family group below.



Becoming involved with the church community over the past few months has been a lovely experience. We have felt so welcomed since organising the christening of my son, Zayn, at St Michael's. It was a lovely day, bringing together all our friends and family together to celebrate Zayn's special day. Karen's service was very personal and just what we wanted. Thank you so much! - Emma

Thinking of a Christening in our Team Churches?

We hold regular Christening Enquirers' evenings/ afternoons to help you prepare for this special occasion

The next sessions are:

Wednesday 23rd & 30th January 2019 starting at 7.30pm
Sunday 24th March & 7th April starting at 2.30pm

To book onto these please contact Sue in our Church Office: clergypa@gmail.com or 01625 421984

Christmas Lunch

Friday 14th December 2018
St Michael's Church
£10.00
12.00pm to 2.30pm
Sign up at the back of church



FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF CREB YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROJECT
& THEIR ANNUAL TRIP TO CAMAS IN SCOTLAND

BURNS' NIGHT

SCOTTISH TWO COURSE MEAL
A WEE DRAM OF WHISKEY
POETRY
TALES FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AT CAMAS
CEILIDH BAND & DANCING

Soft drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own bottle (alcoholic or not) to drink.

**FRIDAY
25TH JANUARY
7PM**

**AT ST. MICHAELS' CHURCH,
MACCLESFIELD**

£17.50 PER PERSON
£7.50 CHILDREN

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CREB - 01625 503740
HELLO@CRE8MACCLESFIELD.ORG



JOURNEY INTO LIGHT

An exhibition of artwork produced by prisoners from HMP Styal and HMP Thorn Cross

**St Michael & All Angels' Church,
Market Place, SK10 1DY.**

Sat 24th Nov until Sun 2nd Dec

Open
Mon-Sat 9am 3.30pm
Sundays 12.30pm 3.30pm

Also: Open from 7am on Mon 26th Nov
Open until 6pm on Sat 1st Dec
for Macclesfield Christmas Lights Switch-on

An exhibition of artwork to demonstrate the lived experience of prisoners and the stories behind their convictions and sentences

Free entry

For more info: stmichaelacoordinator@gmail.com
 [stmichaelsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmacclesfield) phone 01625 426 110

Advent
Hope · Love · Joy · Peace



St Michael's Church

Advent Carol Service
Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm

Advent Taizé Service
Sunday 9th December at 6.30pm

St Michael & All Angels, The Market Place, Macclesfield
T: 01625 421984 W: stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
 [stmichaelsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmacclesfield)



The Town Carol Service

for all who live and work in our Town Centre Community

Thursday 20th December 2018
7.30pm St Michael & All Angels Church

Silk Brass Band
St Michael's Church Choir

Preacher:
Mike Strutt - Chair of Age UK Cheshire East

Just wondering?

Got questions about religion, God, Jesus?
What's life all about?
What do Christians believe?

Come along to our open sessions
at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings
starting 8th January 2019 for six weeks.

St Michael & All Angels, Market Place, Macclesfield SK10 1DY
T: 01625 421984 W: stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
 [stmichaelsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmacclesfield)

BUILDING THE PEACE

1918-2018 | A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Celebrating peace and hope in Macclesfield as we remember the difficult times of conflict over the last 100 years. 3-11 November 2018

Our Team
Churches Remember

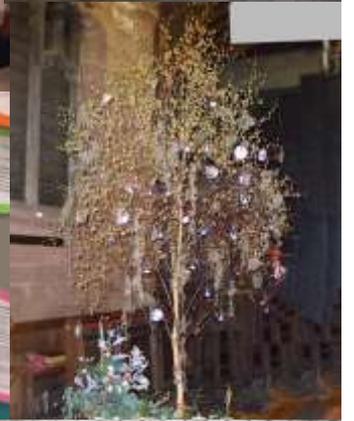


people gathered for a meeting at the Wainlow Drill Hall on 5th November 1913 to show their opposition to military training.



Women reach out across the divide
One hundred British Women Suffragists wrote an extraordinary letter to the women of Germany and Austria.
"Though our sons are sent to slay each other and our hearts are torn the cruelty of this fate, we will be to our common womanhood. We must all urge that peace be made with appeal to wisdom and reason."
Extract from the open letter.
Emily Halderson, one of the signatories

MILITARY SERVICE ACT 1916
ALL MEN, WHO BELONG TO BRITAIN...
THURSDAY MARCH 2nd 1916
Do hereby call on the Honourable Members of the House of Commons to pass the Military Service Bill...



All Saints Church

At All Saints we had a special exhibition to commemorate the 100 years since the Armistice. Stephen and Pat Gaskell arrange displays called 'Faces of the Great War' in our foyer. These included pictures and stories from the local area about people and places associated with the First World War, together with books and memorabilia. They also found out the stories of some of the people who are remembered on plaques within the worship space and decorated the plaques and displayed their stories. The small exhibition has been well received and an appropriate way for our church to commemorate this special occasion. Well done Stephen and Pat and all who helped."

St Peter's Church

Kites that have been created by pupils at Macclesfield schools were displayed at St Peters from Thursday November 8th to Sunday November 11th. The installation was created by Mike Thorpe to fill the body of the church with the words and hopes of these students: what do we want the peace for. This installation formed part of the reflection on 100 years since the signing of the armistice at the end of the First World War. The armistice itself was not a peace treaty.

St Barnabas Church

Over 500 poppies have been knitted by church members and friends to mark 100 years since the end of the Great War. These have been put on an outside display making the number 100. There are also some purple poppies remembering the animals that died in the war. Mixed in with the poppies, on green leaves, are the names of people from the parish that were in the Great War, as well as quotes from war poems, prayers and the Bible. People can see the display outside the church on Lyme Avenue. There is also a picture in the collage opposite.

St Michael's

St Michael's hosted poetry, art and creativity (including a 4.5m high tree and a 5.6m wall-hanging) to help us remember, reflect, and commit to building peace. A week topped and tailed by music started with the stirring "100 Voices" - a reflective evening of poetry and music by young people, Cre8 and KEMS concert band. There was also video footage of flying home-made kites (as a sign of hope), and of a group's visit to the war graves in France and Belgium of men from Sutton.

Quakers

We at East Cheshire Quakers have appreciated being part of the week of events that was 'Building the Peace'. It has been such an inclusive project, literally building the peace among the community. There was a warm welcome for us to offer contributions. St Michael's Church hosted the Quaker textile hanging and local pupils' poetry, whilst the musical composition 'Cowards' was performed at the "100 Voices" concert. The exhibition at the library brought in many townsfolk and Quakers had a presence at the Peace Café at United Reformed Church. Our aim is to work with local schools to give pupils an opportunity to pursue peaceful more inclusive paths in their lives.

Music at Mike's

Friday 15th February 2019 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.

Dates of Next Discussion Series:

Starts Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm for six weeks

Last session is Tuesday 12th February

St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield SK10 1DY

Gentlemen's Evensong on Tour!

On the 25th of September a team of intrepid explorers set out from Macclesfield; their destination - Chester! Eight men (and a dog) set off travelling to find good food and ale in the West. Five of us arrived full of hope at the Flower Pot for a bus to Crewe which ended up being 1/2 hour late - a sign of things to come. We eventually joined Jim on the bus and set off picking up two more, and the dog (Sapphire) in Congleton. We arrived in Crewe in time for our train to Chester, and guess what it was running late!
We did eventually get to Chester in

time to enjoy a very good meal (and a couple of pints) at The Ship Inn, Handbridge. We followed this by a short walk, and further liquid refreshment, in the Bear and Billet. It took even less time to walk to the Brewery Tap and then to the final round at Ye Old King's Head, where sadly Sapphire was excluded.

Those who know Chester will know that we didn't actually walk very far, having a taxi to the start and from the last pub.

There was lots of 'bloke' banter, plenty of getting to know each other more, a bit of confusing the dog's

name, and much putting the world to rights. Sadly even after our refreshment, or may be because of it, we were unable to solve Brexit or even get back to the station for our train home - this one was one time! Our final stop, therefore, was at Costa Coffee on the station platform. And enjoyable day was had by all and we're looking to plan the next one. Big thanks to Ron (Strategist) Sherwin and Tony (Timetable) Hallatt. Gentlemen's Evensong, men from All Saints Church, meets on the first Sunday each month from 7.30 pm in the Park Tavern.

Andy Williams



Congratulations Pam



Congratulations to Pam Pearson (member and bell ringer at St Michael's) on British Empire Medal award for her many years of service as a lollipop lady for Park Royal Community School.



Why I volunteer in church? Open Door Café at St Michael's

When I joined the Open Door Coffee Team over ten years ago, I felt was doing my duty and helping the Church. Now I find it enjoyable and rewarding. We are able to help and cheer up people who come for tea/coffee. Some are lonely, unhappy or bereaved and say that to get a smile, cheerful word or listening ear from us is a help to them.

Some people meet their friends here in the cafe on a regular basis and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere when they don't get out very much.

We are open from 10.30am until 12.30pm Monday to Friday mornings, so the sessions are not too long or tiring.

It would be helpful to get more volunteers and anyone willing to join us should contact Eve Budget on Macclesfield 431606.

Joyce Firth



Pictured here are Bernice and Tricia sporting the new red aprons made by Chris Wightman and the new red welcome lanyards.

The challenge

Well! The Bible is full of surprises! Did you know there was a guy in the bible called Jason? I didn't.... I do now.

I am probably very ignorant but the only ancient Jason I have heard about is 'Jason and the Argonauts'. Apart from him I thought the name Jason was a fairly modern name. So, I was surprised when I read about this Jason who became a follower of Christ in the first century after the death of Jesus. (Acts 17 v6.). Apparently, Jason was quite a common name in those times. Everywhere that Paul went on his journeys to spread the good news of Jesus there was trouble because he was challenging the status quo, so when Paul and Silas arrived in Thessaloniki and started making converts it was inevitable that the rabble would be roused! Or the 'ruffians in the marketplace' as my bible puts it (v5) If the rabble could not get Paul and Silas arrested they went to the houses of people who had been associated with them, such as Jason's house. They dragged Jason and friends to the authorities shouting

'these people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests.' Naughty Jason! This idea of turning the world upside down can be scary, but Paul would say that Jesus was turning the world the right way up because we humans have turned it the wrong way round! One of the reasons I am enjoying reading the Acts of the Apostles is that there are so many minor characters who contributed to the successful spread of the gospel across the then known world. People like me and you – little people doing our bit in our small corner, being a light in dark places and situations, turning the world the right way up! After Paul and Silas had left Thessaloniki Paul wrote a love letter to the church there. It's worth reading that letter (1Thessalonians) all the way through in one sitting. It's only a short letter and doesn't particularly contain difficult theological teaching, unlike the letter to the Romans, and I found it very encouraging, getting to the heart of what it means to live out

the gospel life.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5. Verses 12-24 could be a manifesto for how to live as a church community in Macclesfield. Reading that passage makes me realise that attempting to follow this teaching might mean a change in our approach to each other. We may need to be more openly honest, willing to accept that we are wrong, willing to tell others that they are wrong! Doing all this out of love for one another of course. Paul is keen to teach the new church to have respect for one another, to be at peace among themselves but also be prepared to 'admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.... Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. Do not quench the Spirit or despise the words of the prophets. Hold fast to what is good.' What a challenge!

Tricia Atherton



Thanks to Paul Spedding for this Act of Random Kindness. ARK. Act of Random Kindness is a new regular feature in our Link Magazine. Just send a photo and a caption that says 'Thankyou to xxx for this Act of Random Kindness'. Send it to linkteammagazine@gmail.com

Electoral Roll

In 2019 a new Electoral Roll is being created for every Anglican church. In January everyone currently on our team churches' roll should receive an application form to join the new one.

Please fill it in and return to your Churchwarden/ Electoral Roll Officer.

ER Officers:-

David Budgett, St Michael's

Malcolm Magimm, All Saints

Fran Hiles, St Barnabas

Jann Thorpe, St Peter's

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 Dec/Jan edition is Monday 7th January 2019. The views expressed in this edition of Link do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or the PCCs of the churches.

Celebrating 80 years at Harvest



St Barnabas Church had a special celebration at Harvest this year on Sunday 14th of October. Not only did we give thanks to all the good things our Lord gives us but we were also celebrating 80 years since the chancel was dedicated - not the rest of the building you notice!

We shared in worship together and gave gifts to go to the Silk Life Foodbank. It was good to see so many

people for worship and being thankful for all the Lord gives us as well as the Christian presence on the Moss. After our worship there was a meal with roast ham, potatoes and veg which was shared by even more people. A big thanks to the team who fed us, it was excellent. There was also a display in church of photos and memorabilia from the last 80 years. It was good to see all that has been done from the building in the past as well

as remembering all that happens there now.

Of course as it was a birthday celebration we had to have a cake - more food, excellent.

Having celebrated the last 80 years now comes the task of being a witnessing Christian presence in the area in the future. Watch this space for our plans for the future to make the next 80 years even better.

Andy Williams

Making a joyful noise

On 22nd September St Michael's Choir led Choral Evensong in Lichfield Cathedral. They looked truly resplendent in their red cassocks and white surplices, especially so in candlelight at 5.30pm at dusk. The singing as ever was glorious enhanced by the magnificence and acoustics of the Cathedral.

Truly it was a pleasure to share in the worship in such beautiful surroundings and such a joyous occasion for those of us in the congregation seated nearby in the choir stalls.

On our way back to the car park we met a clergyman who led the



service who said our choir was very good with an excellent Director.

Thank you Karen, choir members

and those who provided transport.

Norma Stanway

Services - December/January

Date	All Saints Brough St. West	St Barnabas Lyme Ave.	St. Michael & All Angels In the Market Place	St Peter's Windmill St.
2nd Dec	9.30am Informal Service	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Advent Carol Service	9.30am Holy Communion
9th Dec	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 4.00pm Christingle Service 6.30pm Advent Taizé Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
16th Dec	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.15am Carol Service followed by meal	10.30am Nativity Service	9.30am Holy Communion
23rd Dec	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Praise followed by Cre8 feast	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Carol Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	9.30am Worship for All
24th Dec Christmas Eve	9.00pm Holy Communion	3.30pm Christingle & Crib Service	4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Holy Communion	
25th Dec Christmas Day	No service (joint service with St Barnabas Church)	10.30am Holy Communion (joint service with All Saints)	10.30am Holy Communion	10.00am Holy Communion
30th Dec	10.30am Joint Team Service at St. Peter's			
6th Jan	9.30am Informal Service	11.15am Morning Praise	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
13th Jan	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer
20th Jan	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.15am Morning Praise	9.30am Storytelling Service with Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
20th Jan	Ecumenical service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be at St Alban's Church, at 4.00pm			
27th Jan	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Informal Worship	9.30am Worship for All

Services in December & January

Hospital Services

**St Luke's Chapel,
Macclesfield Hospital**
9th December - Karen Brady
13th January — tbc

11.00am

*Have you ever thought about helping
support patients who come to worship?
Can you help out on a weekly or more
occasional basis?*

For more information please contact
Vicky & Gordon Darlington
01625 428215

Midweek Communion

**Thursdays
10.30am
St Michael's Church**

Healing Service

**St Michael's Church
Service of Prayer for Healing &
Wholeness 12.30pm**
4th January [No service in December]
*This service will last about half an hour
and all are welcome. It contains interces-
sions 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.*

Baby & Toddler Groups

WEDNESDAYS 9.30am to 11.00am
St Peter's Church 'Take a Break'
Contact Jenny Fox-Eades
07974 944585

WEDNESDAYS 1.30pm to 3.00pm
All Saints Church '0-5 Club'
Contact Shirley Hill: 01625 426874

THURSDAYS 10.00am to 11.30am
St Michael's Church
Contact Church Office: 01625 421984

FRIDAYS 10.00am to 12.00pm
St Barnabas Church
Contact Church Office: 01625 503740



Christmas at St Michael's



Christingle Service

4.00pm Sunday 9th December

Nativity

10.30am Sunday 16th December

Town Carol Service

7.30pm Thursday 20th December

Carols by Candlelight

6.30pm Sunday 23rd December

Crib Service

4.00pm Christmas Eve

Midnight Communion

11.30pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Communion

10.30am Christmas Day

St Michael & All Angels, Market Place, Macclesfield SK10 1DY

T: 01625 421984 W: stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

[f stmichaelsmacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmacclesfield)

Christmas 2018 at All Saints Church

1st December

4.00pm Christmas Messy Church

16th December

9.30am Carol Service

Christmas Eve

8.15pm Carols & Communion
with mulled wine & mince pies

Christmas Day

10.30am joint Christmas Communion
at St Barnabas Church, Lyme Avenue SK11 7RS

30th December

10.30am Team Communion

at St Peter's Church, Windmill Street SK11 7HS

All Saints Church Brough Street West SK11 8EL

Christmas at St Barnabas

Living Advent Calendar

Opening Saturday 1st December. A trail of Advent displays around the community - one for each day. Collect a map from St Barnabas (Number 1) and follow the trail around our neighbourhood.

Friday 7th December | 4-6pm

Carers & Older Persons Christmas Party

Food, raffle, tombola & entertainment
A great night to get into the Christmas spirit.
Contact Glenys to book a place 01625 263143

Sunday 16th December | 11.15am

Carol Service & Christmas Dinner

Dinner will start after the service around 12.30pm.
Sign up for Dinner by contacting Jonathan on 07515410170.

Sunday 23rd December | From 11.15am

Service followed by Community Feast

Service with Rev Andy followed by a Community Feast of free hot food. Organised with our friends at Cre8.

Monday 24th December | 3.30pm

Christingle & Crib Service

A Christmas Story for all. Fun, interactive service exploring the Christmas Story, especially for children and families.

Tuesday 25th December | 10.30am

Christmas Day Service & Communion

SUNDAY 23rd

DECEMBER 6pm

Carol Service

A traditional evening of seven readings and carols for everyone, with mulled wine and mince pies.
Service starts 6.30pm

MONDAY 24th

DECEMBER 4pm

Family Crib Service

The Posada (travelling crib) returns to church

CHRISTMAS DAY 10am

Christmas Morning Celebration

Short Family Communion

ST PETER'S CHURCH
BUILDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY