

CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

APRIL - MAY 2016 FREE



Happy 10th Birthday 9.30 Service p. 11

From the Clergy Rob Wardle p.3

My Journey with God Alison Wilson p.4

An Easter Egg reflection David Wightman p.5

Making a Beginning Dave Mock p.7

Good Samaritan in Modern Britain Sue Reid p.8

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcome to Macclesfield Team Ministry

A Prayer

We ask for the presence of your Holy Spirit to guide our Team Ministry in the future.

Teach us to be patient and tolerant with one another as we prayerfully seek your will in the search for a new vicar. We pray for unity and love between us all in the Church, the ministry team, the wardens and the congregation. Keep us steadfast and united in love that together we may walk the ways of your kingdom.

Amen

Macclesfield Team Ministry is a family of four churches that are located in different parts of the town of Macclesfield, and are part of the Church of England.

We are four quite different communities of people seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and trying to bring wholeness and healing to Macclesfield and the wider town.

As churches we are made up of all sorts of people, young and old, employed, unemployed and retired, some more able-bodied than others, yet everyone is valued as being uniquely made and loved by God.

Our parishes cover the centre of the town, neighbourhoods along Old Buxton Road and Black Road,

around Chester Road and Oxford Road, and the Moss Rose and Tytherington estates.

While our churches have a history that goes back to 1278 we are working today to enable people to grow in faith and spirituality. We believe that God regards everyone as being infinitely valuable and loveable, and that our local schools, businesses and institutions are an important part of what makes our community a good place in which to live.

The life of each church is centred around its worship. So do feel free to come and meet us at any of our churches whether you have had a long association with the Christian faith or not.



All Saints

Brough Street West
Macclesfield
SK11 8EL
allsaintsmacclesfield.weebly.com



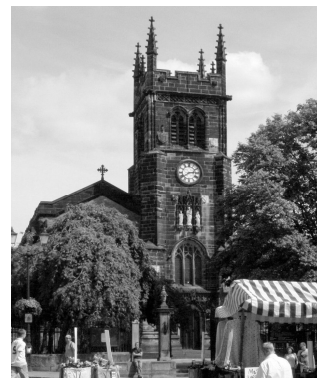
St Barnabas

Lyme Avenue
Macclesfield
SK11 7RS
cre8macclesfield.org



St Peter's

Windmill Street
Macclesfield
SK11 7HS
stpetersmacc.org



St Michael & All Angels

Market Place
Macclesfield
SK10 1DY
stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

The Staff Team

Team Rector

Post Vacant

PA to the Clergy

Sue Reid

T: 01625 421984 or 07798 921265
E: clergypa@gmail.com

Team Vicar

Revd Dave Mock

T: 01625 432919
E: revdavem@googlemail.com

Team Office

Macclesfield Team Office

St Michael & All Angels Church
Market Place
Macclesfield SK10 1DY
T: 01625 421984 (24 hour machine)

Associate Vicar

Revd David Wightman

T: 07770 785188
E: david.wightman1@ntlworld.com

Team Printing & Photocopying

Deadline: Thursday morning 9am
maccteamprinting@gmail.com

Cre8 Director

Revd Rob Wardle

T: 077101 73177
E: rob.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org

FROM THE CLERGY

Hope and Resurrection



He climbed out of the taxi and held up his trousers; they looked two sizes too big. The pale shirt matched the pale skin, his face riven by years of chemicals misused. With two fingers and a thumb burnt orange from the tightly squeezed rolls of Golden Virginia, bought cheap no doubt, no tax. His clothes borrowed with everything creased, just like his mind; tortured. By comparison the trainers looked new, and they betrayed someone who couldn't afford a pair of shoes for their son's funeral.

It took me a while to realize that his own mother had not acknowledged him, not even his presence. He didn't see her out of the eight people who were there. Maybe she was embarrassed, maybe she couldn't bring herself to love him today, or any day. The child's mum looked dressed for a wedding. Her smeared mascara and shaking lips told you this was a celebration she hadn't planned. There would only be pain here, but she glowed with love just the same. She

gave birth to her son, but he drew no breath in this life. What pain did she bear? She had made the effort to show her beloved son that she loved him, even though she knew she had failed him. The pain of a mother that cannot care. That was the tragedy; she knew what she and they had done.

A tiny white coffin was carried in, no wheels; Jesus carried his own cross. I croaked my way through the lines, remembering my first visit. The front door opened into a dingy room with stained sofas pulled tight towards a low table. An overflowing ashtray, papers, ash, smell, things lurking in dark corners and shaking fingers. Words of comfort, hoping for healing but not expected. Desperate, desperate tears where existence hung by a thread. Here today, gone tomorrow. A tune requested, lyrics of meaning. Some thoughts of memories to come and hurts to be kept at bay.

Here I speak about Heaven. Not because there's nothing else, or because it's the only thing to cling to, but because it's the only thing that makes

any sense of it all. The only thing that makes any sense out of this pain and this darkness. The heaven of which scripture speaks, of True Light; the place where light perpetual shines, where darkness has no call, can cast no shadow and wreak no havoc. Where peace and love bask in the warmth and sunshine which has no end. Eternity, this is our hope. I talk of resurrection, not because we want it; but because we know it happens. Of resurrected lives, of people who walk this earth in freedom who should be walking dead; if death was allowed to hold its grip. Of people who walk this earth in the freedom which is given, freely. Death has lost its sting. Resurrected lives, where the death of addiction to ourselves is defeated. Resurrection, which gives us new life on this earth, in this time and in this place. This is the Resurrection we seek. Freedom and the beauty of our present lives.

Revd Rob Wardle

My Journey with God (so far)



Alison Wilson tells her story

For the first 10 years of my life my family had many moves but fortunately we then settled in Wilmslow where we stayed until I left home. My first memory of any religion was Crusaders (I was 11) and I still remember happy times with that group. I was confirmed at 14 and would creep out of the house on Sundays when everyone else was sleeping to attend communion at the local church. My family were non church goers but were very open-minded and encouraged my brother and I to follow our own pursuits and beliefs.

My faith remained static and to be honest, in the background until I went to university in London and joined the local

church.

This was a revelation. Here was a vibrant, active church full of students and a superb chaplain. I liked the people in the congregation (I met my husband there!) – I liked their beliefs and attitude and I felt completely at home there. It is, of course, an impressionable age but that time left an indelible mark on me. But life moves on and after university we moved to Derby, then Glasgow and finally Macclesfield. My faith during my time in Derby and Glasgow remained static and certainly didn't grow but was always there in the background. It was a busy time of life and work and then children seemed to fill my life leaving little time for God. It was almost a time of resting.

On moving back to this part of the country I returned to church life slowly. It was a happy period but later there were some dark times for our family. I never lost my faith but I have to admit to being angry with God. He could solve this problem so easily. I went to healing services when I would pray to God for help. It took me years to recognise that God was giving me that help, just not in the way I wanted or thought was right! Many years later life has settled into pattern of hope and peace and as usual God was right! That was a valuable lesson and helped to strengthen my faith.

Two years ago I was taken ill and was completely overwhelmed by the love and help I received from everyone in our church. People I have never spoken to offered help and their support was fantastic. I live on my own these days but have family and friends to help, but the additional help from my church family was the icing on the cake. I feel blessed and yet again my faith in God has been strengthened.

I have no idea where the rest of my life is going. But I think I have finally learned that with God by my side I will be fine. His plan is the one that matters, not mine and I trust him and know that his love will carry me through. I feel blessed to have lived the life I have and for all the help and guidance I have received. My stubborn self has finally realised what a wonderful world I live in as long as I listen to God and try to do as He would wish.

Alison is a member of All Saints Church

An Easter Egg Reflection



Why are eggs associated with Easter? Why are they such a powerful symbol of resurrection? This Easter at St Michael's in the service we are having an Easter Egg hunt. I wasn't sure about it at first – after all there are no Easter eggs in the Bible. Nor are there any stained glass windows or pictures of Jesus or icons in the Bible.

Throughout history we humans have used illustrations, pictures, images and actions to help us understand divine truths. And the most important, the most distinctive for the Christian is resurrection. Resurrection is an important word. It is not resuscitation, as if Jesus were simply brought back to life, like Lazarus or the widow's son at Nain. Resurrection is transformation and the symbols of resurrection are examples of transformation.

The symbols of resurrection are many. So then, why eggs and Easter? An egg is totally changed. What is yellow and white liquid becomes alive with feathers and a chirp. If you just saw an egg on its own and had no

knowledge of nature, if you looked at the liquid of eggs alone, you would never tell what they would become. A liquid goo becomes a chicken. These are resurrection symbols because they become something else, totally unforeseen and beautiful.

There are also human resurrection symbols: persons recovering from drug addiction or alcoholism become what they have despaired of happening. They are the same persons, but now transformed; they have new life, new hopes, and new possibilities.

The resurrection is an invitation to look around to see transformation, to see what is evil being changed, what is immature becoming adult; what appears inert like an egg or seed sprouting life.

But for the Christian the resurrection has a still richer meaning. St. Paul, says to the Corinthians:

"I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures" (1Corinthians

15:3-4).

CS Lewis writes *"To preach Christianity meant (to the Apostles) primarily to preach the Resurrection. ... The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences, were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought.* (Miracles, ch. 16)

Christ is risen, and has promised to take us with him. This life is not the end; we too will be transformed in endless life and beauty. Human life is good, but it will end. The resurrection gives hope and meaning to our existence here.

"What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body" (1Corinthians 15:42-44). Think of this when you next eat an egg.

Revd David Wightman

Parish Magazine

Editor for the Link

Since Graham moved to become a prison chaplain, the Link has been edited by our Clergy PA, Sue Reid. Sue has done a great job but cannot fit Link editing into normal hours as Clergy PA.

If we are not able to find an editor in the next two months the Link will be replaced by a bi-monthly new sheets (Link-Lite) until further notice.

Please consider taking on this role—a vital communication role within Macclesfield Team

Ministry—editing a magazine with a readership well beyond the four team churches.

If you would like to know more about what is involved and are interested in considering this role, please speak in the first instance to either David Wightman or Sue Reid.

David Wightman and
John Phillipson



Allez-y!

St Michael's Church
Friday 15th April at 7.30pm

A French themed evening of cheese and wine plus 'un quiz' on all things français!

Tickets are £7 available from the Church Office or Ruth and Paul Simms who are hosting the evening, or Vicky Darlington.

Dress code: French berets, striped jumpers. Frilly aprons are optional!



St. Michael's Church
Market Place
MACCLESFIELD

Whisky & Hot Pot Supper Evening

Fundraising event host: Neil Baval

Taste Single Malt whisky
from all over Scotland.

Hot Pot Supper
served in the interval.

Friday 3rd June 2016
7.30pm

Proceeds in aid of Church Funds.
Cost: £25.00p
Payable in Advance to D. A. Smith
C/o 21, Tytherington Park Road,
Macclesfield SK10 2EL. Also ticket sales
available from the Parish Office and
Portland Wine Company, Chester Road.

Sponsored by Portland
Wines Chester Road

Making a beginning



If you go to the supermarket from mid January to late March, you will be confronted by massed ranks of Chocolate Eggs and gold wrapped bunnies all declaring that Easter is coming. In a time when fewer people every year seem to understand what the roots of Easter are about, they are left with a sort of pagan celebration of Springtime and new beginnings that leads nowhere except to the dentist. A cynic would say that Easter and its “symbols” would have been long gone from our consciousness if so many people didn’t make so much money selling it to us.

What do we say to such a world about what Easter really means? Two very different authors, NT Wright and Marcus Borg (with John Dominic Crossan), help us to tell the story about what Easter means (without any reference to chocolate bunnies) and the meaning of what is the most important festival in the Christian calendar.

In their book *The Last Week* Borg and

Crossan point out that

“Good Friday and Easter; death and resurrection together are a central image in the New Testament for the path to the transformed self. The path involves dying to an old way of being and being reborn into a new way of being. Good Friday and Easter are about this path, the path of dying and rising; of being born again.”

They point out that, without Easter, Jesus’s death is pain, agony and horror. There is no new life on offer, just someone dying for you and your sins. Without Easter, we are left with cynical politics: the powers that be are in control of this world and Jesus is in control of the next one. Without Good Friday Easter is a sentimental day of flowers and bunnies. Instead, Good Friday shows us what we are being resurrected from and offers antidotes to the powers that be: justice, mercy, peace, love and generosity. Good Friday offers violence, hate, fear tyranny; all things we say no to in the Easter garden and for our future.

NT Wright in his book *Surprised by*

Hope echoes this by saying that resurrection is not about a hope to come but rather about Jesus as Lord **now**. The world is being transformed under his lordship, **now**. Resurrection is not some future event but rather an overthrow of the claims of the powers of our lives **now**. We serve a new master who leads us into lives which, by their very nature, transform us and transform the world.

Easter is an invitation to join the One who is really in charge. One who calls us to abandon the way of the world and its Good Friday tendencies. God’s power and authority is displayed through Jesus who saves, restores, renews us while overcoming the power of sin and death. We can no longer be overpowered by them. This new Easter life promises peace and hope to those who embrace it and live it.

Revd Dave Mock

The Good Samaritan in Modern Britain

The power of the parable in the 21st century



The Bible Society has just launched a report entitled: *Pass It On: The Good Samaritan in Modern Britain*. It explores the issue of human kindness and how well known and relevant the parable of the Good Samaritan is in modern Britain. They put kindness to the test in the streets of Reading. We can be encouraged that the report shows that the parable of the Good Samaritan does still have meaning and significance today. The phrase itself is a common metaphor, used with the assumption that its meaning is understood by all. The Good Samaritan has been held up by politicians, from Margaret Thatcher to Jeremy Corbyn, as an example of, and call to, selfless action and helping those in need.

However, despite the enduring

resonance of the Good Samaritan parable, we are in danger of forgetting how radical it would have been to Jesus' audience. The picture of a Samaritan helping a man from Jerusalem would have, quite simply, been incomprehensible – as these two 'neighbours' were anything but – a long history of enmity existed between the two communities. In the parable, 'Good Samaritans' are not simply those who do a kind deed for another – as we tend to believe today – but they are people who show mercy to others outside their own community. The parable itself set out to answer the question: 'Who is my neighbour?' and showed that they are not just a friend or family member but those who are 'other' to us and our own communities. The parable operates on

two levels. It is a spectacular invitation to a life of self-giving that insists we roll up our sleeves and help no matter what it takes. It also challenges us to recognise that there are no limits to our neighbourhood or neighbourliness. It demands that even those who are hated and feared are to be seen as our neighbours.

The Good Samaritan in Britain today

Most of us have some knowledge of the parable of the Good Samaritan. 70% of the British public say that they have read/heard the story*. You have only to turn on the TV or open a newspaper to find a reference to the concept. But what does the term 'Good Samaritan' mean in modern Britain, and how relevant is the parable of old in helping to shape society today? These are questions that we seek to address in this report. According to a study conducted by YouGov for Bible Society among British adults and children aged 8 to 15, nearly 2 in 3 adults (64%) are worried Britain is becoming a less kind society. 57% of children feel the same.

The manifestation of this?

If we saw an elderly lady crying in the street, would we stop? Only half of us would (55%). 1 in 4 of us wouldn't lend a stranger money for a train ticket home. Only 37% would lend their mobile phone to an elderly gentleman to make an urgent call. But there is desire for change. Nearly 9 in 10 kids (89%), and a similar proportion of adults (86%), think Britain would benefit if people were more willing to help each other. So there is a strong foundation to build upon. Just over a quarter of us (26%) have helped a stranger in the last week, and nearly half (44 %) of us in

the last month.

Adults in Great Britain are prepared to give up 5 minutes (36%) to help a stranger, but would not spend a single penny (25%)..

And the profile of that stranger? An elderly lady in a safe environment is most likely – but by no means guaranteed – to receive help. In fact, over 1 in 3 (35%) of us would not lend her our mobile phone, or indeed anyone else that we did not know. Just 30% would lend our phone to a religious leader, 25% to a professional in a suit (man or woman) and 1 in 5 to a teenage girl. A teenage boy and rough sleeper fare worst in this list, with only around 15% prepared to loan either their phone. More generally, two thirds of us wouldn't stop to support a religious leader, the homeless or a professional man in need in the street. Confronted with an elderly man or woman crying, just over half say they would stop to help, with the remainder indicating they would not.

Sue Reid

1 in 4

Would not help by spending a single penny

2 in 3

Adults are worried that Britain is becoming a less kind society

1 in 3

Would not lend a mobile phone to an elderly lady

9 in 10

Children and adults think Britain would benefit from people more willing to help

30%

Would lend a mobile phone to a religious leader

70%

of Adults know the Good Samaritan parable

34%

Recognise a simple act of kindness is what being a Good Samaritan means in modern Britain

40%

of Adults believe education in schools about the Good Samaritan parable is important to know

10%

Would give only £1 when a stranger asked for money getting a train ticket home

89%

of Kids think Britain would benefit if people were more willing to help each other



'On the parable of the Good Samaritan, I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the Good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?' Martin Luther King



A kinder Britain?

'No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted'. Aesop



What are your limits?

We took to the streets of Reading to put kindness to the test. Baptist minister, The Rev Sam King from Calne in Wiltshire, asked people if he could borrow their mobile phone to make a call. He then dressed in scruffy clothing and asked the same question to see what reaction he would get. Actors also played the part of an older lady, a man having his wallet stolen and a Syrian refugee. Does the vicar deserve help more than the rough sleeper? In the Good Samaritan story Jesus is asked who exactly is my 'neighbour' in the command 'love your neighbour as yourself'. Where do you draw the line? Who am I meant to love? Jesus tells a story about a guy who is helped, not by 'good people' or 'religious people' but by a man nobody in the audience likes – a man who is meant to be the enemy. What's your limit?

For us the Good Samaritan story is about two big questions: **What does it look like to love someone?** How far would you go for someone in need? Would you give two minutes of your time? Your coat? Your spare room? **Is anyone off limits?** Are there any boundaries to who we treat lovingly? Do you think all our fellow human beings deserve the same kind of compassion, or are there some people we don't have to care about? **What does 'Good Samaritan' mean to you?**

We've been asking the UK public some questions about Good Samaritans. **What does it mean to be a Good Samaritan today?** **31%** Doing something at a small cost to yourself, e.g. giving someone directions, volunteering, giving money to someone for a train ticket home. **20%** Doing something at a potentially significant cost to yourself, e.g. jumping into a river to save someone else, stopping to help at a car accident. **19%** Doing something good for someone you don't like or wouldn't normally associate with.

What do you think?

Bible Society



Julekha Begum, aged 13, lives on an island in a river in Bangladesh. The islands in this river are fragile and are constantly changed by tides and flooding. Life is very uncertain for people who live here. This satellite picture of Bangladesh shows its special geography. When Julekha's family arrived on the island, their first priority was food and shelter. Julekha's family want to thrive, not just survive. The family was given some animals and seeds. A worm farm has enabled them to make compost so they can grow lots of vegetables. Julekha's mum has used her earnings to buy solar energy so that Julekha can study. A worm farm in Bangladesh costs £21. A full island rescue package, including a goat,

trees, seeds, worms and a raised house, costs £250.

To donate to Christian Aid look out for the red envelope that will come through your door as part of the house

to house collection or through your Church. If you are able to act as a house to house collector during Christian Aid Week, please speak to Peter Bradley.



Happy 10th Birthday

"Let the little children [and their parents] come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~ Matthew 19:14



The 4th March 2016 saw the ten year anniversary of the 9.30 Storytelling Service at St Michael's. It was started in response to a request for a short, child friendly service that children could be intrinsically part of.

At the start there was just a handful of families and within a short time the congregation grew. In ten years around 120 families have been part of the 9.30 service and our youngest children are less than a year old and our oldest now 15. One of the key strengths of the service has been its ability to adapt to changing needs. As

the congregation grew in size and our children got older we adapted the service to include a group for the older children and an interactive group for adults based on the lectionary reading, and so a new format started. We also included a communion service once a month. But essentially the service starts and finishes together.

This community of faith has developed not just through worshipping together each Sunday, but also as a result of frequently gathering for regular picnics, family walks, games nights and parties. There is also the

annual camping weekend, a monthly women's and men's nurture group and a weekly 5-a-side football game.

Over time the service has given opportunities for people to undertake leadership roles in the nurture groups, leading the service or as communion assistant and many parents have become involved in activities across the wider church.

In mood the service is more contemplative than noisy, giving space for children and adults to encounter God.

Sue Reid

Midweek Services



Thursday Communion Services

10.30am at St Michael's Church

Healing Service

Service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness

12.30pm at St Michael's Church
First Friday of the month.

1st April
6th May



This service will last about half an hour and all are welcome. Its 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.

Macclesfield Hospital

Hospital Service

11.00 am, Sundays at St Luke's Chapel

10th April Fran Hiles
8th May Fran Hiles
29th May Robert Marshall



Have you ever thought of helping support patients who come to worship? You can help out on a weekly or more occasional basis. For more information please contact:

Vicky & Gordon Darlington T: 01625 428215

Messy Church

at All Saints Church
SATURDAY 7TH MAY
4pm - 6pm



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

Our Services

	All Saints Brough Street West
3rd April Easter 2	9.30am Informal Worship
10th April Easter 3	9.30am Holy Communion
17th April Easter 4	9.30am Morning Worship
24th April Easter 5	9.30am Holy Communion
1st May Easter 6	9.30am Informal Worship
8th May Easter 7	9.30am Holy Communion
15th May Pentecost	9.30am Morning Worship
22nd May Christian Aid Week	9.30am Holy Communion
29th May Trinity 1	9.30am Fifth Sunday

ELECTORAL ROLL

If you would like to go on the electoral roll of your church



If you do a job for your church or wish to take part in the annual meeting, and are not yet on the electoral roll, please complete a form and hand it to a Churchwarden in your church.

across the Team

St Barnabas Lyme Avenue	St Michael & All Angels In the Market Place	St Peter's Windmill Street	
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	3rd April Easter 2
11.15am All Age	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	10th April Easter 3
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion	17th April Easter 4
11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Service (informal worship)	9.30am Worship for All	24th April Easter 5
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	1st May Easter 6
11.15am All Age	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	8th May Easter 7
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	15th May Pentecost
11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Worship for All	22nd May Christian Aid Week
11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Service (informal worship)	No Service	20th May Trinity 1

Annual Parochial Church Meetings APCMs

All Saints 9.30am 17th April
 St Barnabas 11.15am 24th April
Shortened time of worship will lead to the APCMs
 St Michael's 6.30pm 24th April
Starting with a short act of worship
 St Peter's 9.30am 24th April
After the main service

SOCKS WANTED

The Treehouse Project in Macclesfield which supplies hot meals and warm clothing to homeless people on Saturday evenings has a dire need of men's socks.

Any donations should be placed in the box near the Church Office marked Treehouse.



Toilet Twinning

Flushing away poverty

Members of St Michael's (and guests) may have noticed there is now a plaque in each of the two downstairs narthex toilets explaining that the toilet is "twinning" with a toilet or latrine constructed in a poor country - one in Liberia, one in Guatemala.

Two Christian charities (Tear Fund and Cord) set up Toilet Twinning about eight years ago and the idea is to build simple but hygienic latrines in poor countries around the world.

Whereas we take good toilets for granted, nearly 40% of the world's population (over 2.5 billion people) don't have access to hygienic toilets.

Each minute a child dies from diarrhoeal diseases and 60% of all

rural diseases are caused by poor hygiene and sanitation. Good sanitation and clean drinking water are essential for health in any community. Let's do our bit in providing somewhere safe, private and hygienic to go to the toilet.

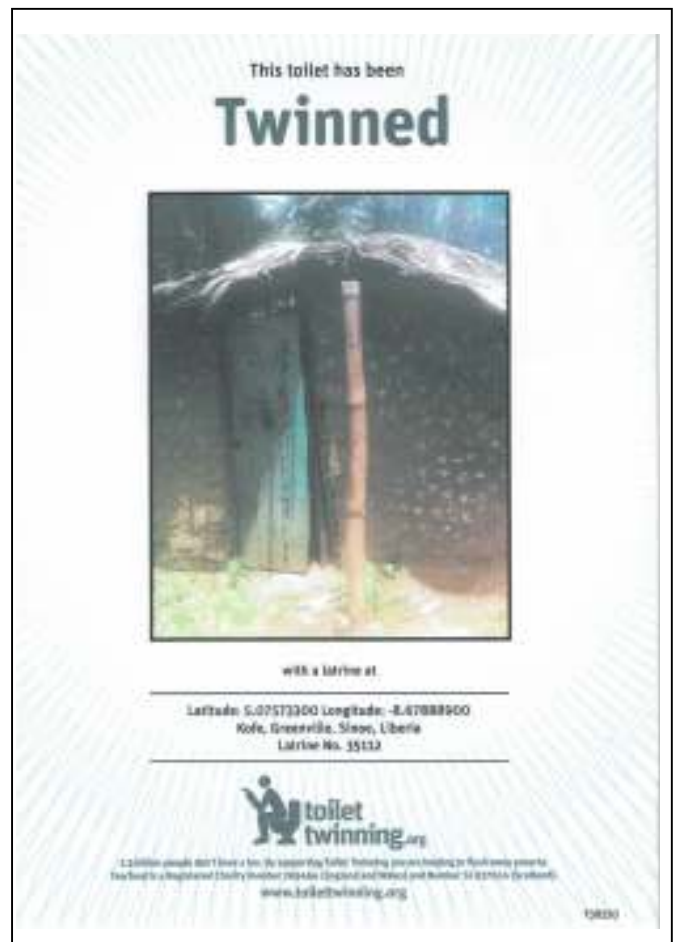
Our two twinned toilets (pictured below) have been paid for - £60 each - from members of the congregation rather than St Michael's funds. There are five toilets in St Michael's and we hope all five will be twinned during 2016. If you'd like to contribute financially, please see Paul or Lynne Spedding.

Remember, our twinned toilets are helping to flush away poverty! Perhaps you would even like to twin



your own toilet at home and help raise even more funds for this project.

For further information:-
toilettwinning.org
info@toilettwinning.org
 0300 321 3217



Voice of Persecuted Christians

SERVING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



Release International serves the persecuted church around the world in 30 countries in five key ways:

Showing God's compassion – providing for the needs of the families of Christians who are being persecuted or have been imprisoned or killed. Every year thousands of Christians are detained and imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ. Some are even martyred. Where families have lost the breadwinner, Release gives pastoral care and practical support.

Serving God's church – enabling believers to survive persecution and its effects. Release stands with churches and church leaders around the world who are being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ: by directly supporting persecuted pastors and their families; and by providing leadership and theological training.

Sharing God's love – helping persecuted Christians bring to Christ

those who are opposed to the gospel

The Bible tells us that the apostle Paul was once a persecutor of the early church – until God turned his life around – transforming him into a mighty preacher and church-planter. Release helps persecuted churches bring the good news of the gospel – even to those who persecute them.

Spreading God's Word – supplying Bibles and literature to meet the need for growth and evangelism. Release provides Bibles and Christian literature in local languages to build up the church, to encourage evangelism and disciple new believers in Christ.

Speaking as God's advocates – being the voice of the oppressed and persecuted. Release helps to bring the voice of the persecuted church to fellowships in the UK and Ireland, and also to governments. We regularly ask supporters to campaign on behalf of persecuted Christians by writing letters and using petitions.

Almighty God, who has taught us through your Son Jesus Christ that those who follow Him may be persecuted; strengthen, comfort and encourage all those who suffer harassment, violence, imprisonment and even death for being followers of Jesus. We pray for those who persecute your people; may their hearts be turned towards you through the faithful witness of those they persecute. Protect members of the families and church communities of those who are persecuted and bless the work and ministry of Release International and its partners as we support those who are suffering and seek to be a voice of persecuted Christians. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



I'M HERE WHEN PEOPLE NEED ME

A lot of people need us. That's why our volunteers are always around to give anyone who is struggling to cope the space and time to talk.

➔ Find out about joining us
 ☎ 07467 171138
 🌐 www.samaritans.org/volunteer

SAMARITANS
 MACCLESFIELD & DISTRICT

A charity registered in England and Wales
 no. 251491 (Macclesfield & District).



Telling Bible stories in primary schools through acting, miming, puppetry, singing

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Would you like to join us, taking the children into the wonderful world of the Bible?

Come, Taste & See the Bible in 20 Minutes!

Join the Macclesfield Teams for a taster session at

All Saints Church, Brough St West,

Macclesfield SK11 8EL

Thursday 21 April 10 am till 12 noon

Light refreshments will be served during the chat.

Further details contact

Jenny Kendal on 01625 574615

jennykendal@gmail.com

THANK YOU

A belated thank you to everyone who donated to the Children's Society through the Christingle Services in the Team.

The Children's Society

The service at St Michael's raised £305.00.

Olivia Simply says.....




FARM SHOP

THINK GLOBAL.....BUY LOCAL



THE Hope CENTRE
Living, Loving, Serving, Sharing

CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP & COMMUNITY CAFE



EASTER STOCK IN
 A wide selection of Easter Cards, inspirational gifts & beautiful decorations available

THE REAL EASTER EGG £3.99

 [thehopecentremacclesfield](https://www.facebook.com/thehopecentremacclesfield)  [@HopeCentreMacc](https://twitter.com/HopeCentreMacc)

16-18 Park Green, Macc SK11 7NA
 01625 404384

Looking for Cre8 Works?



Click here to visit the website or call 01625 503740

-  Grounds maintenance
-  Tree care
-  Rubbish removal
-  Void clearance
-  Loft insulation
-  Weed control

To book a church or hall

Contact the appropriate person:

All Saints

Jim Donaldson 01625 619050
jacjim@ntlworld.com

St Barnabas

Jonathan Aiken 07515 410170
jonathanstewartakrn@gmail.com

St Michael's

Sue Reid: 01625 421984
or 07798 921265
clergypa@gmail.com

St Peter's

Mike Boardman: 01625 428646

Who to Contact . . .

Administrators:

St Michael's Church:
Emma Kingdom T: 01625 421984
E: stmichaelscoordinator@gmail.com

St Peter's Church:
Jann Thorpe T: 01625 500544
E: coordinator@stpetersmacc.org

Cre8:
Katy Wardle T: 01625 503740
E: katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org

Weekly Notice Sheets:

All Saints - Ron Sherwin
E: allsaintsnotices@gmail.com

St Barnabas - Vera Butler
(via Glenys Hibbert)
E: glenys.hibbert@ntlworld.com

St Michael's - Lynne Spedding
E: stmikesnotices@gmail.com

St Peter's -
E: coordinator@stpetersmacc.org

Get the LINK online

Go to www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk and click on the Link icon to download your copy of the magazine each edition.

Police Surgery with PCSO Karen Watson

at St Michael's
Monthly on Thursdays 10.30-12.00

Next surgeries are:
7th April
12th May

What's What

The Link Deadlines & Other Information

You can submit contributions for the magazine by email or by hand to the Team Office.

The deadline for the next edition is **1st May**. All material needs to be submitted to the Team Office by this date.

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

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
1.00pm to 2.30pm
Ruth Parker: 01625 613068 (for am)
Marion Porter: 01625 612964 (for pm)

St Michael's is Open

Monday - Saturday
10.30 am to 12.30 pm
Call in for a look round



Safeguarding Who can help?

Disclosures - Lead Recruiters:

Sue Reid T: 421984
(Team churches)
Katy Wardle T: 503470
(Cre8)

Safeguarding Co-ordinators:

All Saints:

Chris Campbell-Kelly T: 261373

St Barnabas:

Fran Hiles T: 429990

St Michael's:

Ellen Brown T: 423178
Paul Spedding T: 614819

St Peter's:

Jann Thorpe T: 500544

Diocesan Advisor:

Pauline Butterfield
Safeguarding Officer
T: 01928 718834 ext 221
Pauline.butterfield@chester.anglican.org

Visitors coming? Not much room at home? Comfortable flat in Beech Farm Drive available for short stays. Two single beds, a single sofa bed and long sofa. Contact Sheila Swarbrick at flatsk102eu@phonecoop.coop

Next Music at Mike's at 1.15pm

Friday 20th May
Friday 24th June

A programme of concerts for your lunchtime entertainment by King's School. Free admission & light refreshments served.





ANDREW SMITH FUNERAL SERVICES

The Local Independent Funeral Director

- *Celebration and Thanksgiving Services tailored to your needs*
- *Simple, low cost Funeral Services*
- *Golden Charter Pre-paid Funeral Plans*
- *Recommended by the Good Funeral Guide and the Natural Death Centre*

Park Green House, 82 Sunderland Street,
Macclesfield SK11 6HN



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

www.andrewsmithfuneralservices.co.uk

01625 433 853

The **co-operative** funeralcare

25 High Street
SK11 8BR
01625 422583

124 Broken Cross
SK11 8TZ
01625 425284
brokencross@letsco-operate.com

**Here for you when
you need us most**



Living, Loving, Serving, Sharing

CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP & COMMUNITY CAFÉ

16-18 Park Green, Macc SK11 7NA

01625 404384

Pop in for a warm welcome, proper coffee & delicious food,
or inspirational books, cards & gifts



Thehopecentremacclesfield



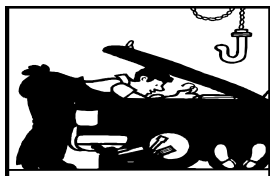
@HopeCentreMacc

To advertise in our parish magazine, please contact the Church Office on 01625 421984

K N Motors Repairs & Servicing

1-3 Copper Street
(off Black Road)
Macclesfield

01625 614219



Let our family business take care of your car



Quickstep Foot Care

Specialist's in Foot and Lower Limb

Sally Cole MChS HPC Registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist
BSc (Hons) Podiatry BSc (Hons) Microbiology VTCT IHHS Massage

Mobile service covering all aspects of chiropody in the comfort of your home

Tel: 07849 852347

email: sally@surefeet.co.uk

Appts: Daytime, evenings and weekends

Web: www.quickstepfootcare.com

PLATINUM HAIR SERVICES

Cut and blow	£20.00
Shampoo and Set	£15.00
Shampoo and Blow	£12.00
Dads & Kids under 12	£8.50
Perm	from £35.00
Colouring services	from £30.00
Weddings, proms and hair up	prices on request



I am a qualified hairdresser, charging realistic, affordable prices bringing a professional service to the comfort of your own home. DBS checked for your peace of mind.

ALL NEW CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE THEIR FIRST CUT AND BLOW FOR JUST £15.00

Call Lorraine on 07840108808



Tel: Shop - (01625) 424395

Fax - (01625) 511416

Farm - (01625) 574307

12 PARK GREEN, MACCLESFIELD

All Districts Served Daily

Marshall Spearing

Family Butcher

Quality Beef, Pork, Lamb, Poultry and Game

Specialists for Cooked Meats, Pies, Sausages and Home Freezer Orders

TOOLS for AFRICA

We collect and refurbish your old and unwanted hand tools to send abroad. Do you have any of the following?

- Hand tools - all trades - any condition
- Singer sewing machines - hand operated
- Haberdashery, material, buttons, zips, cotton, etc.

To donate please contact:

Ken Osborne on 01625 433357

or at

ken.j.osborne@btinternet.com

or Roger and Mary on

01663 763204

Tools For Self Reliance

practical help for practical people

Registered Charity No 280437

Personalised & Individual Care

For all your pets



- 🐾 Dog Walking - am/pm/lunchtimes
- 🐾 Dog Home Boarding
- 🐾 Cat Feeding/Sitting
- 🐾 Small Animal Boarding for bunnies etc
- 🐾 Home visits for care & cuddles
- 🐾 Overnight Home Sitting
- 🐾 Fully Insured & Police Checked
- 🐾 Qualified in Pet First Aid



For more info please contact David & Tammy on
t: 07919 403481

e: cheshireeast@paw-pals.co.uk

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

We promise to beat your home insurance renewal by at least **£30!**

stonier
Your first call for insurance

Call now for a quote on:
01625 423 214

Proposers must be over 30 and claim-free for 3 years. A standard acceptance criteria applies.

Available for residents of postcodes SK9, SK10, SK11 and CW12 only. Offer may be subject to change

www.stonierinsurance.co.uk

Stonier Insurance 101, Chester Road Macclesfield, Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



The Festival is coming again!

Cre8
Festival

11th - 17th June 2016
+ True Light

Celebrate everything that brings light
in Faith Change and Community

visit www.cre8festival.org
to find out more

Want to make a difference in your own community? get in touch:
01625 503740 or hello@cre8macclesfield.org



St Michael's ringers have been teaching a new band of ringers at St Peter's. The new band were recently invited to our Ringers' AGM at St Michael's to see what happens at the annual business meeting so that they might have some idea of what to incorporate into running their own tower. Just after the start of the meeting we were surprised by the arrival of a truly amazing cake, modelled very accurately

on St. Peter's tower, which they presented in thanks for our efforts in teaching them so far. When the top of the tower was lifted off it revealed eight bells cast in chocolate. This stunning creation was the work of one of the St Peter's ringers Alison Griffen who is embarking on a new venture making designer cakes.

Kevin Rogers

