

**DECEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016 FREE** 

St Peter's Take a Break: 30 years and still going p 11



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### 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

acclesfield 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.



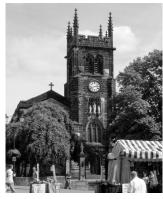
All Saints
Brough Street West
Macclesfield
SK11 8EL
allsaintsmacclesfield.weebly.com



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 1HW stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

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### FROM THE CLERGY

## My running days aren't over



his year I've managed a few shuffles, one or two excursions down the canal towpath. I've not done very well but I'm not giving up, I'm always looking for something better. I love Advent, and not just because I like opening calendars. I love Advent because it's the time of year when we look forward, and we look forward in the sure expectation that something exciting is going to happen.

But it's been dark; the nights have drawn in. I walk George the dog in the dark and I walk home in the dark. Leaves fall from the trees and blow around my feet; there is an almost continual dampness in the air. It's dark when I go to sleep and it's still dark when I wake up. In the last few weeks we have endured ghouls, ghosts, death masks and celebrations in ugly faces. It's fun, but I'm glad it didn't last. And then the beauty of All Souls; remembering those who passed. We've lit fires to warm ourselves. We've remembered the sacrifices demanded by human

conflict; Remembrance Sunday where the veterans get fewer and fewer. Now we need some light; we're sorely in need of some light.

In Advent we can see it coming. Light from Light looks to us from over the horizon, from the place where death is no more. This is when I start to run, not on the towpath you understand, but my heart begins to race. I'm excited, it's not that I want to fast forward to Christmas Day and the present opening, it's that I am obsessive at the thought that God came to be with us, with me. I'm mad you might say, slightly inebriated, brainwashed, full of myself. It doesn't bother me. Whenever I think about the Incarnation I can feel my heart quickening; I can't explain it. The thought that that God took on flesh, human flesh, to be just like me and you excites me, it transfixes me, I'm in wonder. I pinch my skin to remind me that He had skin just like me. I look at my hands and I remember Jesus' hands, then I look at a baby's hands and how beautifully made they are; and I see God, with ease. He came

to be human just like us.

In Advent we go through the waiting, the expectation, we learn patience; I do need to learn to be more patient. Some of us may fast. It is the season when we remember to wait for God, to look expectantly towards God but also to search for where God reveals Himself to us. We learn from Jesus' mother to say 'yes' when it seems more obvious to say 'no'. And we learn to give of ourselves.

We are now the Body of Christ. Every smile, every gesture of compassion, every gift of generosity and love is confirmation of God with us. When we give of ourselves, some small sacrifice, some small unthanked gift which costs more to our heart than to our pocket, it is confirmation that God is with us. Keep on running.

Revd Rob Wardle

## My Journey with God (so far)



### Tricia Atherton tells her story

Tricia is a member of St Michael's Church I was born and brought up in Blackpool, which means I am a 'sand grown 'un'. I had a very happy childhood living in one of the new council houses provided after the war for soldiers like my dad. There were five of us children and not much money but we had freedom to roam the fields, climb trees and make dens. I can remember Mum sending us down to the coal works with an old pram wheels trolley to collect coke and bits of coal for the fire. My dad worked at the Blackpool Evening Gazette as a Machine Minder. Later he got a job at the Daily Express in Manchester when it was owned by Lord Beaverbrook. He was a proud member of the the NATSOPA trade union. He worked on the night shift because the money was better but that meant that we didn't get to see him as often as he would have liked. He loved kids and was a kind and gentle man. He was always

telling us funny stories. However, his experiences in the war in North Africa left him with a legacy of fear and depression which came to haunt him in later life.

I was a teenager in the swinging sixties and loved all the new music. The Beatles swiftly took over from Cliff Richard and I still remember waiting for every new record that they produced. One of our group would buy it and then we'd all meet up on a Friday night to listen to it over and over again. I shall never forget when 'Norwegian Wood' came out. We were scandalized!

It was round about this time that I went to a Christian Coffee Bar and a young girl told me about Jesus. I had always thought that being a Christian was the same as being a good person. She showed me some verses in the bible which explained that God wanted to have a relationship with people and that Jesus had come so that

this could happen. (John 3:16 and Revelation 3:20). That night I opened my heart and prayed that God would come and live in me, I didn't really understand it all but I knew that something significant had happened. From that moment on I knew that God is real and that he lives in me. My life opened up in ways I never expected. I went home on the bus and read Mark's gospel and for the first time the scriptures came alive and it was like God was talking to me personally. I joined the youth group at the church in Blackpool where Frank Haslam was the vicar.

Since that night in the coffee bar in Blackpool I have had some wonderful times, three children and a loving family and friends, but I have also had very very difficult times. Jesus does not promise us an easy life and I would suggest that if we are taking our Christian commitment seriously we are bound to have challenging times. The Christian life is likened to a battle against the 'powers of darkness' and we are instructed to put on the whole armour of God, to 'take up our cross' etc.

There was a time when I couldn't see the light of Christ at all. I was living in a closed black box, hunched up in a corner. Where was God in those times? I don't know but he brought me through and out the other side. The important thing for me is that I know that God is real because I have a relationship with him. I believe that the spirit of God is in all living things but that for humankind God holds out her hand and says 'You are my children, come to me, receive my love and my presence in your life.' She gives us a choice, we can accept or reject.

There's much more to my story than this, but I have a word count restriction! However I am always happy to talk about my journey and what my faith means to me so please don't hesitate to ask. I'd like to hear your story too.

Tricia Atherton

### "What did you do on your sabbatical?"

ounds like a straightforward question, but it all depends on who is asking and what they want you to tell them. The real question could be, "what did you learn?" or "how did you enjoy your 3 month paid holiday that normal people don't get?" or "have you got lots of new stuff for us?".

Taking the question at face value, I've had a pleasant and fruitful sabbatical. I went to the USA and France, read many fine books, discovered how much more reading I should be doing, visited with friends, took lots of photos, spent time with my family, rode my bike, started doing Couch to 5K, read the Gospel of Mark, had a mini retreat, watched movies and TV box sets. A few times I sat out on the patio next to a roaring fire and looked at the stars. I thought some deep thoughts about God, relationships, work, being me and how all those things are connected.

Some of the thoughts were challenging, some affirming and others revealed that I am (like everybody) a work in progress with a lot of development still left to do. I garnered some useful (if not blazingly original) insights about the Gospel and the wide gap between the Jesus who roamed around the dusty roads of 1st century Palestine and today's church.

A lot of vicars will tell you about how fruitful their sabbatical was either by telling you about their new book, their postgraduate dissertation or even declaring they have a new job.

But I'm not going to do that. Instead, I want to show you some of the pictures I took during those three months. Bear with me. I know that "have a look at my slide show" ranks right up there with wanting to tell you about my sabbatical using interpretative dance, but hear me

Over 90 days I've taken over 500



photos, deleting nearly 300 of them for various reasons ranging from blandness to under exposure. I then spent a long time with the remaining 200 reshaping them to draw out a deeper image of what I saw originally in the viewfinder.

The 200 good photos get reduced down to 90; one image for every day of sabbatical (though not necessarily a photo *from* each day). 90 days of photography.

I don't claim to be the world's greatest photographer. What I love is taking a view of something ordinary or even overlooked and seeing if there is something extraordinary within them. It's a process of discernment where I make it hard to give up on a picture and instead approach it differently by doing something as simple as making it black and white.

### "Life's a lot like that, isn't it?"

That old preaching punchline is corny, but it is true. As I reflected on the process of how I do photography I discovered that the process is a good analogy for how to do life: looking at the ordinary more deeply and seeing both how to enrich it and, myself, in the process.

I've been reflecting on learning what

needs to be deleted, what can I live with and, more importantly, what can be transformed in me. Our lives, like photos, are meant to be shared. There is no point in looking deep into our own lives just for the sake of ourselves. It should also be for the sake of all those around us and, of course, for the glory of God.

So here are 90 photos. They are a hard won record of looking at the world more closely and they are the fruit of looking at my life more closely. I hope you enjoy them and I hope they inspire you to look more deeply into yourself and the world too

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=66twncCcI1c&feature=youtu.be

Revd Dave Mock

## Get the LINK online

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

# Winter Hope Accommodation Macclesfield (WHAM)

ast winter six town centre churches provided weekend shelter for rough sleepers over the winter period.

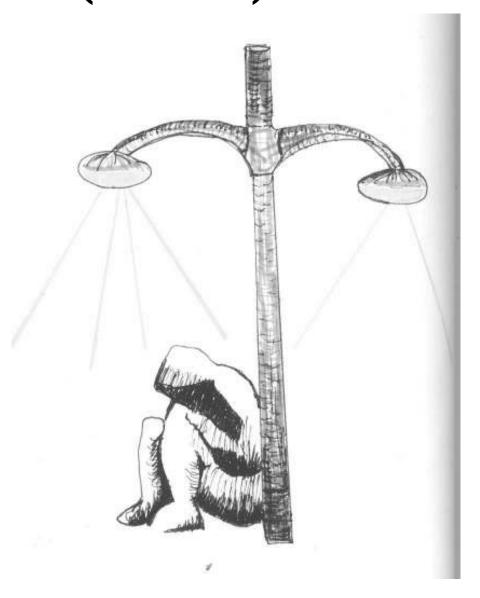
During that period:

- 21 different male guests were given at least one nights shelter, exactly 100 nights' accommodation were supplied.
- 130 volunteers from over 15 churches helped. Over one person year of volunteer effort was provided.
- Guests valued "the safety and security" and "being able to talk with people" with no agenda
- Grants were received from Cheshire East Give Back Scheme, Church Urban Fund and there were generous individual gifts of money and provisions so that WHAM will be financially secure this year

This winter the churches in Macclesfield will again help people who are suffering due to cut backs and lack of affordable accommodation. WHAM (Winter Hope Accommodation Macclesfield) will provide Winter Weekend cover in the period from late December to late March at churches in the Town. Each participating church will provide shelter for a weekend at a time providing accommodation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, with host churches providing evening meals on Friday and Sunday and breakfast each day.

While this is only a partial solution to the problem WHAM will cover the worst of the winter at times when least assistance is available elsewhere. Our objective is to "Begin the end of the homeless experience."

Churches will be open to receive guests from 8.30pm until 10.30pm each weekend evening.
The churches taking part are St Michael's, Macclesfield Methodist, St Alban's, Salvation Army, United



Reformed and Elim Pentecostal. St Michael's is hosting the shelter during the weekends  $1^{\text{st}} - 4^{\text{th}}$  January and  $4^{\text{th}} - 7^{\text{th}}$  March 2016. More details of which church is hosting are in the WHAM leaflet which is on the church counter.

For any further information, including how to help, please contact Rachel Mayers or David Wightman.

Revd David Wightman

## Reasons to be Thankful



Possibly my favourite time of the year, we've been busy harvesting all the goodies from the garden at St Barnabas and we had some very kind donations from St Michaels Harvest Service. We've been making some amazing food...

Chutneys with the apples and onions; Soups and curries with the runner beans and potatoes; Chip butties with the potatoes (and homemade bread rolls); Jam, tarts and crumbles with the apples, plums and blackcurrants

A big thank you for all your donations.

Katy Wardle



### CRE8 BOUTIQUE Quality, preloved items: raising money for Cre8.

Pop into the Boutique and get presents for your family and friends and a little treat for yourself! And you'll be supporting Cre8 at the same time. Our items are all 'preloved' and sold at very affordable prices.



# Tuesday 15th December 2015 2.00 – 4.00pm at The Cre8 Building, Mayfield Terrace

### **Donations wanted**

If you're having a clearout before Christmas and trying to de-clutter why not donate your unwanted items of clothing, shoes, bags, accessories, jewellery and toys to Cre8?! We're also on the lookout for clothes hangers and baskets. Please phone 01625 503740 or <a href="mailto:katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org">katy.wardle@cre8macclesfield.org</a>

## The gift that keeps on giving HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOURS YET?



ovember is Will Aid month and encourages people who haven't yet made a will to use a local solicitor who has signed up to Will Aid and enjoy the added feelgood factor of supporting nine leading UK charities. Instead of paying your solicitor's fee, you will be invited to make a donation to charity. The suggested voluntary donation is £95 for a basic Will or £150 for a pair of basic mirror Wills.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a great opportunity to make a huge difference after your lifetime. For many charities, including the nine that run Will Aid, gifts in Wills account for up to 50% of their voluntary income. Without being left gifts in Wills, so much of their work would not be possible. Leaving a gift in your Will to a registered charity can also be highly tax efficient as it is free from inheritance tax. By choosing to leave a gift to a charity, you could effectively reduce any tax your family or other beneficiaries would have to pay. Legacy 10 came into force on 6th April 2012. For people who die after this date and leave 10% of their estate to charity there is a corresponding reduction in the overall rate of Inheritance tax payable on the rest of the estate from 40% to 36%. It is also possible to achieve this saving by way of a deed of variation to insert the legacy to charity into a Will after someone has died.

There are three types of gift. You can leave: a share of your estate (a residuary gift); a fixed amount of money (a pecuniary gift) or a particular item (a specific gift)

The most valuable gifts to charities are residuary gifts. But any gift in your Will, large or small, will give hope to vulnerable people in the UK and around the world.

Have you considered leaving a legacy to your church, the Diocese or the Church of England? Legacies are a hugely valuable source of income to our parish churches, nationally



contributing £44.8 million to parish income in 2011, that's almost £3,000 per parish church per year.

God gave us all that we have and all that we are; our wealth and possessions, our family and friends, our health, the earth we live on, the air we breathe; even his Son Jesus. We are all rich in the gift and grace of Christ, 'for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.'

Gifts in Wills are an important part of Christian Giving, and leaving a gift to your church is a way to thank God for all the blessings you have received in your lifetime.

God gave us everything we own. Our stewardship beliefs and practices teach us that when we have no further use for our earthly possessions, we give back to God.

For some Christians, including a gift in their Will is a final way of giving thanks to God.

We are God's stewards, entrusted to use His gifts for the good of our family and our church family. In thanksgiving, we should also take Will writing seriously – setting our affairs in order, and stewarding them wisely to the end of our time on earth and beyond.

### Thinking in Shares

When deciding how to divide up your estate, you might wish to consider thinking in 'shares' rather than specific

cash amounts. This also reflects the Church's teaching on proportionate giving,

The New Testament is not prescriptive on the amount Christians should give, only that we should give generously, freely and cheerfully and in accordance with our means. After providing for your loved ones, why not give generously and proportionately from your assets (estate) too?

Legacies are a lifeline for our parishes. Our Church of England parishes receive over 5,000 legacies each year - gifts to finance mission projects, maintain beautiful church buildings and grow faithful communities. These gifts make a real difference to the future work of the Church - as regular giving often concentrates on maintaining the existing mission and ministry.

If you are keen to explore this further, we can arrange for someone from Church to come and talk it through with you at home or after Church one Sunday. Please let the Church Office know if you would like further information.





### The Children's Society

The Children's Society urgently needs to offset a recent national decline in its income from their House Collection Box Scheme and is asking for additional support for this scheme.

Please could anyone in Church who does not participate in this scheme kindly consider having a house collection box. Also, could existing box holders perhaps consider increasing their donations or making them worth 25% more through Gift Aid if they are UK Taxpayers and not already gift aiding their donations.

The Society provides urgent support for vulnerable children including those experiencing or at risk of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, substance misuse, mental and emotional health problems and running away from home or care. Hence it is very worthy of support at all times.

The Society is very grateful for all support given and if you can help further please contact Ralph Cole, House Box coordinator, Tel 428458 who will be pleased to supply additional boxes, Gift Aid Forms and further information about the Society on request.

Ralph Cole

### **Advent Reflection:**

'Darling. We're pregnant.'

ew statements carry as much emotion as the one that titles this piece, especially for those who have almost given up after years of disappointment and false hopes. So we can imagine the response of one couple, the biblical Abraham and Sarah, who against all odds not only become pregnant, but models of faith in the process.

But Abraham and Sarah are Advent pillars not only because grace broke into their lives, but also because they trusted the God who made the promise. Saint Paul considers Abraham to be our father in faith not because of any qualifying deeds, but because he trusted that the promises of God would be fulfilled. We find God in surprising moments of grace, and we also find God in the experiences that call for patient waiting and trust. Waiting is not the strong suit of many of us in our hurry-up culture. Everything is urgent. Hope is foreign to people who expect quick relief, cures, and solutions. We struggle to guard Advent jealously because popular culture short-circuits this season of hope: We are tempted to go directly to celebrating Christmas without getting in touch with the part of ourselves that is longing, hoping, and trusting.



Waiting is also difficult because we're forced to admit that we are not in control - God is. A friend who recently became pregnant experienced an awed helplessness as the natural process advanced within her body. Her husband also could only wait with her, loving and supporting her and their unborn child, but unable to accelerate the process.

For all their drama, the words "Darling, we're pregnant," uttered by a tear-streaked, wrinkle-faced 90-year-old Sarah to wobbly, unbelieving Abraham, or by an amazed, teenaged Mary to an equally confounded Joseph, indicate not the joy of birth—not quite yet—but the amazing surprise of love, and the beginning of a season of waiting, when God-is-with-us.

Sue Reid

### Curate's House – 7 Brocklehurst Way

During October several people were busy working at 7 Brocklehurst Way, previously the home of Mike and Gerri Tetzlaff. St Michael's now has no curate and will not have one until the new Team Rector has settled in. This gives us the opportunity to help the finances by letting the property.

As last time, Judith Gibson, from Jordan Fishwick, came to inspect the property. She asked us to tidy it up and we have. In the garden: Cre8 removed a small forest of trees and ground the stumps. The rotting shed was dismantled and removed. The old nonworking electric mower was replaced

and the grass mown. Broken and absent fencing is to be fixed shortly.

In the house we have: removed Rawlplugs, filled up holes and cracks, painted walls and woodwork. Quite a few people gave their time and talents generously. Our new tenants took possession on 10th November and we hope they will be very happy.

Many thanks to all who helped.

David Budgett

## A commitment to

At the 11.00 service on 11<sup>th</sup> October the eco-congregation group launched the Live Simply challenge; calling upon the congregation and the church as a whole to respond to the increasing gulf between rich and poor both in this country and in less developed countries by living more simply and sustainably.

Everyone can do something to reduce their impact on the environment and their share of the world's resources, and every reduction however small will improve the lives of those living in poverty.

The immediate responses included:

- Turning the heating down
- Sign up to green energy
- Join a ramblers club
- Celebrate Christmas in different ways
- Postpone new bathroom
- Avoid flying
- Buy fair trade whenever possible
- Stop throwing food away The Live Simply commitment is printed in full below. Will you sign up?

## What can I do to *Live more simply?* These are just a few suggestions: *It's nearly Christmas!*

- Give fewer presents; agree to give presents only to children
- Celebrate in different ways: neighbourhood drinks, charity gifts, help at WHAM, talk more and eat and drink less
- Invite others to share your Christmas meal

Re-cycle, re-use, re-duce

- Buy your milk from the milkman in glass bottles
- Use a re-usable shopping bag (either a Treacle or Hope bag?!)
- Avoid plastic bags (or any sort of unnecessary wrapping)
- Walk or cycle whenever possible
- Where does your energy come from?

## "Live simply so others may simply live."

-Mother Teresa



- Buy an electric car
- Buy your gas and electricity from a supplier of renewable energy (ecotricity or good electricity)

### Where do you go on holiday?

- Travel by public transport and keep car use to a minimum
- Use local guides and services and family run hotels and restaurants instead of packages or "all inclusive"
- Avoid flying whenever possible

### What about your shopping?

- Join the local food movement and grow your own, or buy from local farmers
- Buy organic and fairly traded produce whenever possible
- Get an allotment
- Support local traders and independents
- Don't buy more than you need; reduce waste
- Support foodbanks

### St Michael's Commitment to Live Simply

We, the people of St Michael and All Angels Church, accept that everyone on this planet is equal in the eyes of God, and that, as members of God's family on earth, we are called to help our brothers and sisters living in poverty both here and in the less developed nations of the world This help we will give by:

- Trying to live more simply, enjoying what we have and not wasting money on things we do not need
- Trying to live more sustainably, not using more than our fair share of the shrinking resources of the world, which are there for all
- Living in solidarity with those who live in poverty; supporting them with our prayers, our money, and our action

We ask for God's blessing on our community in this and all our endeavours as we seek to serve and witness to him in Macclesfield and beyond



### Family Bike Ride

n Sunday 27th September a group of people from the 9.30 and 11.00 congregations at St Michael's undertook a family friendly bike ride along the Middlewood Way to Higher Poynton. Riders were rewarded with a picnic tea and snack at the end before summoning the energy to ride back to Macclesfield. Special praise for the

very little legs of Harry and Thomas.

David Mayers

### **Sausages for Saints Day**

Helping our children find **LIGHT** this Halloween and spreading the message of joy and hope.





## Thirty and still going strong: Take a Break Toddler Group



St Peters Church Toddler Group recently celebrated its 30th birthday with a party. A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in the group.

### Stewardship Packs 2015

In the coming weeks you should receive a Stewardship Pack. Please consider its contents and your response prayerfully.

Our pledged giving, as enhanced by Gift Aid, makes up the most significant part of our income as a Team Ministry so it is very important to have a good idea of the amount that we can expect through a planned Christian giving process.

If you do not receive a pack and would like to give to your church, or you have any queries regarding this, please contact your Church Treasurer, or contact the Church Office on 01625 421984.

### Midweek Services

### **Thursday Communion Services**

10.30am at St Peter's Church
11th December
10.30am at St Michael's Church
3rd & 17th December
From January services will just take place at St
Michael's weekly at 10.30am Thursday mornings.

### **Healing Service**

### Service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness

12.30pm at St Michael's Church

4th December 8th January

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

II.00 am, Sundays at St Luke's Chapel

13th December Revd David Wightman

10th January Tbc 31st January Tbc

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 5th december saturday 2nd January 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	
6th December Advent 2	9.30am Informal Worship	
13th December Advent 3	9.30am Holy Communion	
20th December Advent 4	9.30am Morning Worship	
27th December Christmas I	10.30am Team Joint Service at St Michael's Church	
3rd January Epiphany	9.30am Informal Worship	
l Oth January Baptism of Christ	9.30am Holy Communion	
l 7th January Epiphany 2	9.30am Morning Worship	
24th January Epiphany 3	9.30am Holy Communion	
3 lst January Epiphany 4	9.30am Fifth Sunday	

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to 25th January 2016

### **Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity**

Sunday 24th January 2016

3.00pm at St Michael's 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 4.00pm Christingle	9.30am Holy Communion	6th December Advent 2
I I . I 5am All Age	9.30am Storytelling Service I I.00am Morning Prayer No Choral Evensong	9.30am Christingle Service	l3th December Advent 3
11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Nativity Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	9.30 Holy Communion 6.00pm Carol Service	20th December Advent 4
10.30a	27th December Christmas I		
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service I I.00am Holy Communion	9,30am Holy Communion	3rd January Epiphany
I I . I 5am All Age	9.30am Storytelling Service I I.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	l Oth January Baptism of Christ
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	l 7th January Epiphany 2
11.15am Morning Praise	9.30am Storytelling Service I I.00am Morning Prayer	9.30am Worship for All	24th January Epiphany 3
11.15am Morning Praise	9.30am Storytelling Service I I.00am Treacle Service (informal worship)	No Service	3 l st January Epiphany 4

## Cre8 Music Concert

Sunday 13th December at 6.00pm at St Michael's Church



Young people sing and play songs they have written and composed themselves. About their lives, their feelings, their perspectives and their world. It feels like a true privilege to be able to experience this Concert.



## **PROFILE**



**Jann Thorpe** is a member of St Peter's Church. We asked her:

What three words best describe you? Positive, happy, excited!
Which people in your life are the most important to you? My family, both immediate, wider and soon to be!
What is your favourite TV programme? Downton Abbey - did the whole box set while I was ill - completely hooked!

What is the best thing about the church you belong to? Informal and friendly.

Who has most inspired you in your life? Too many to pick out one. I take inspiration from different people which varies according to what is happening in my life.

What book did you read recently that you enjoyed? I read loads of crime fiction and forget the authors and titles. I rely on my kindle to tell me if I've read it before!! Jo Nesbo is one that I do recall! Tell us one thing about yourself that many people would not know? My

many people would not know? My great Aunt gave me a hand carved elephant with ivory tusks when she went round the world in 1966 and it sits on my windowsill next to my bed.

If you could invite anyone for tea, who would it be? I don't drink tea so they wouldn't come!

What is your favourite hymn or song and why? In particular I have a song that I sang to each of my children when they woke at night - Hosanna for Luke, Majesty for Daniel, Praise God for the body for Hannah. I like many songs, but have an overwhelming dislike of Amazing Grace! What do you do, or where do you go

to unwind? To the sea, just like all good Cornish people I love being near the sea especially in winter.

What is your prayer for the world? Do unto others as you as you would have them do unto you. - It would sort everything out!

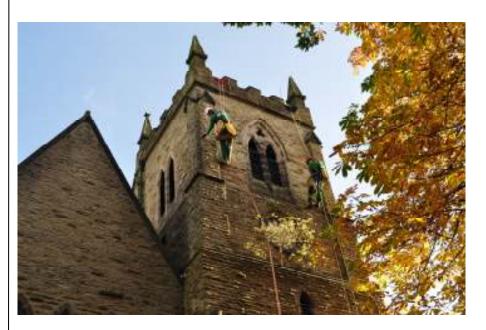
# **Extreme Gardening** at St Peter's

hat do you do when trees start to grow out of your church tower?

Trees, shrubs and weeds in general seem to find St Peter's tower an ideal spot. For several years now we have had a problem with vegetation taking root on our bell tower. But how could we tackle it?? We had hoped that this could be dealt with as part of a larger project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to make important repairs to our stonework and roofs, but our funding bids were unsuccessful.

Knowing that we had a very limited budget for this work we took advice from our church architect. He recommended a firm of abseiling stonemasons. They were impressive, in one day they cleared all the vegetation, carried out essential work to stabilise one of the pinnacles and provided a detailed report on the condition of the tower - all at a fraction of the cost of providing scaffold or 'cherry picker' access.

Richard Lowe, Churchwarden







### Greetings from Bollinbrook CE (A) Primary School

At Bollinbrook we never forget that we are St Michael's Church School... your Church School. We enjoy a strong and strengthening relationship with the parish through the work of our Foundation Governors, many of whom are parents of children at Bollinbrook. In addition, we also have parish members who freely give their time to support the school whether in leading worship (assembly), helping out in some other way in and around the school or, of course, through your prayers for our work. On behalf of all at Bollinbrook I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this support.

The 'new' school year is well and truly up and running with Christmas rapidly approaching – always a very busy and exciting time in school. The first half term ended with our Harvest Festival which once again was kindly hosted by you at St Michael's and we were once again made to feel very welcome. The Harvest Festival Service was built around a short drama led by our Year 5 class and based on "The Wind in the Willows", Kenneth Grahame's classic children's story. It contained an important message about being grateful for the many gifts which God provides for us but also being prepared to work together so that we can all benefit from them. At the close of the service Ken Johnson from Christian Relief Uganda (CRU) spoke briefly about the work of CRU and its long association with Bollinbrook followed by a retiring collection for their work.

Mike Waters (Headteacher)

### **ROAR Recovery Talent Fun Day**

On a gloriously sunny day in September, St Michael's Churchyard was abuzz with families enjoying the varied fun-filled entertainments. These included bouncy castle; facepainting; giant bubble machine and live entertainment.

This was part of the Fun and Talent Day organised by Reach Out And Recover (ROAR) to raise monies for the Bosley disaster; Friends for Leisure and for their own funds.

At 2:00pm a packed church was treated to the Talent Contest, alternately being entertained and moved by recitations, songs, music and poetry composed by the performers, telling of their journeys. After each performance, the judges; the Deputy Mayor, David Rutley, Macclesfield's MP and two other judges, passed their judgement in the true Talent Contest style.

ROAR is a not-for-profit organisation that works alongside adults who have found themselves in addiction. They state that their aim is for people to see



REACH OUT & RECOVER

the person, not the addict. They offer a package which involves addressing deep rooted issues, changing behaviours, thinking styles and life skills to enable people to enter into the community as positive members. Ongoing support is also offered.

Those who access the service are shown compassion, given hope and a place where they can begin to believe in themselves. They empower people to take control of their lives and help them to develop practical skills whilst working in the community. Those who follow our programme are offered a pathway to a new life. From early stage 24 hour support, toward supported accommodation and finally, their own independent tenancies.

The day was a wonderful success and raised £844.00 but even more so, was a wonderful occasion showing the loving care that ROAR give and the warm encouragement that members give to each other. It was a privilege to have been able to steward on the day and to be able to welcome ROAR into St Michael's Church.

Hilary Halliwell and Anne Kite



## My Ugandan Experience



ambo! My road trip began in my imagination at the impressionable age of about 7 and 3/4s, about the same time that my childhood hero and Macclesfield's answer to Indiana Jones came to deliver a presentation at my school. Rhona Marshall had travelled the world and here she was telling me and my friends about this incredible place called Africa. "The roads are red? What's that about?" I was baffled. They didn't seem to need shoes over there...I considered walking home without, later deciding it was too wet and there was risk of slug attack. To me, this place looked like paradise. "Over there you can carry pots on your head! How cool is that?" My best friend at the time must have listened to Rhona's speech more carefully than me. She was all fired up to save the kids in the projection slides by setting up a stall and selling sweets in aid of the newly formed Christian charity -Christian Relief Uganda. "Sure, why not aye?" I quickly forgot about this plan, probably overtaken by pokemon cards. What I did remember was thinking that those kids at Maria's Care looked nice, that place was special and one day I would go to Africa!

Conveniently, the film 'The Lion King' was a favourite of mine. I haven't found a film to top it yet. No doubt, this vaguely obsessive love of singing lions helped to remind me of distant lands where big cats rule. "Mum, can we have a pet lion? It would make a great guard cat."

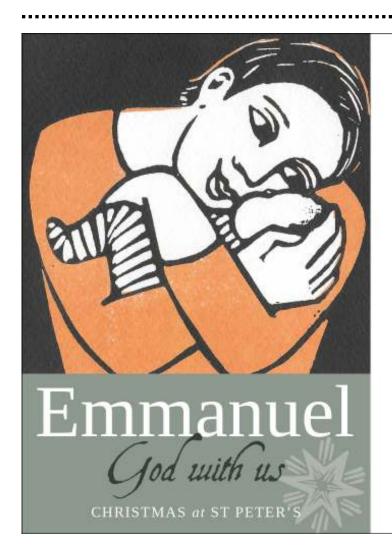
High school was made more bearable daydreaming about Africa too. Unsurprisingly, many in my class didn't share this interest so I was left to my own ethnic devices. In year 12, a year I probably ought to have taken seriously, I constructed my art project around the continent (helped by Bob Marley). Considering as it was all still a daydream, my art teacher was a little sceptical about how I may manage the observational drawings. I felt that this was just a minor setback and ploughed on with this exotic project loosely based on my family holiday to Wales. We do love Photoshop don't we?

Plans of road trips around the world were sidelined during Uni. Then, during 2013 I was faffing around town when I came across a group in the Grovenor Centre. Their display board was in trouble so I offered a hand which led to a rota timetable of the

HOPE Christmas wrap. I guess I had nowt better to do anyway. The lady with the clip board looked familiar, I've met her before! By the end of the 2 hours Rho had filled me in on the past 18 years of experience. Two years later and 20 years since our first meeting and the road trip begins!

I knew I'd arrived on seeing my first dusty red road. After the apprehension about the dangers of mosi bites, getting lost, tropical diseases and being a dosey muzungo (white person) I was ready for my first piki piki - motorbike thrill. I recommend a night time ride, dodging pot holes, the buzz of roadside sales, and an inky black sky with balls of gas burning billions of miles away... The orphan kids later warned me that the piki piki drivers were ripping us off. Wasn't sure what to do with that, rather uncomfortable really. Think I got my 40p value from them.

There are too many things to tell you and I don't really know where to start. One special moment was on our second day. We made it to Kampala and the big city lights were on, at least until the next power cut. In the Arndale equivalent we discovered that (Continued on page 19)





SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 9.30am Christingle Family Service



SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER 6pm

## Chestnuts, Carols and Candles

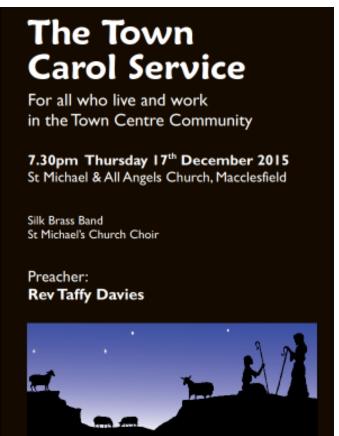
An evening of festive music and carols for all the community, with mulled wine and mince pies.



CHRISTMAS DAY 10am Christmas Morning Celebration Service

www.stpetersmacc.org

ST PETER'S CHURCH





### Macclesfield Parish Church Scout and Guide Group

### Home of 6th Macclesfield Scouts and 2nd Macclesfield Guides

### Hut Refurbishment: Big Build Update





Planning for the refurbishment of the St Michael's parish Guide and Scout Hut started last Christmas when the outline plan and budget were set; £15,000 in Phase One. Since then we have been raising funds and by the summer AGM we announced a £7,500 community investment grant from Cheshire East Council.

Our total project is ambitious, but the vision is:

- A better space for the Scouting and Guiding activities the children attend
- Reduce the environmental footprint of the hut through modern insulation
- Create an inviting community space that is available to other organisations and has the potential to provide an income for the group

### Progress so far...

The whole interior has been removed; wall cladding, kitchen, wiring, spurious water pipes and part of the floor. The rebuild has started; ceiling insulation is in, as is the far wall. The kitchen structure has started and new wiring is in. Not bad for one week but we've had issues too and this is where we need additional help and support.

Problems have put us back on time and budget. We found a water ingress problem that had rotted 1/3 of the wooden under-floor and corroded the steel structure that supports the roof. It seems that many years of slow decay have caused this. We are all so pleased we're doing this rebuild now whilst repairs can still be made; we are building a facility to merit the Scouting and Guiding activities the children enjoy.

The great news that is within the first week alone we have solutions to all the problems and are now on the road to full re-construction. Our thanks to our builder, David Crouch, and to Northern Structural Services, who solved a problem in 48hrs that on a normal project would take around two weeks.

### At the end of the first phase we will have:

- Insulation a much warmer hut and lower gas bills
- Covering of all the iron upright beams no need for foam strips to stop bumped heads
- Increased storage and organisation of storage; making much better use of the leaders room
- A new large kitchen with improved storage space and
- Replacement ceiling panels with new tent drying hooks
- Finished before Christmas

James Radmall, Hut Refurbishment Project Leader

To keep in touch and volunteer please visit:hutproject@mpcsg.co.uk, http://mpcsg.co.uk/latest-news/

We are grateful for any help offered.

We look forward to joining the congregation at St Michael's for the next flag parade service which will be the Nativity on 20th December. Some of our members will also be joining the 9.30 service on Sunday 22nd November.

(Continued from page 16)

Woolworths still exists!! Ok, so that wasn't the special moment but still quite exciting. We'd arranged to meet those first students of Maria's Care. The ones in the slide show that caught my interest all those years ago. Now, they are still about my age, 25,26,27 and all doing well! They are training doctors, lawyers and agricultural workers. All given a chance by Maria's Care and some very generous people who sponsored them in the UK. What struck me was their determined attitude to build upon opportunities with humility. We swapped facebook names and remain in contact even now. I love that!

Another special moment was meeting the kitten in Jinja. It so happened to be ginger in colour too. It belonged to a bright stall of touristy stuff. I spent a good 10 minutes fussing the cat so thought I'd probably best buy something from the glaring stall owner. Locals casually walk around stalls carrying live chickens while push bikes pass by with manikin legs and 15 garden chairs strapped to their back. The kitten must have left his impression on me. Later on I turned to my friend and said "I think that cat was the highlight of today" forgetting I'd sailed the Nile and stood at its source, risking parasite infection, earlier that morning!

One tour guide we met was called Smile. I think that appropriately sums up the general cultural attitude shared over there. Despite the challenging environment and obvious material poverty, the outlook seems to remain warm and optimistic. Maybe it's the extra vitamin D or maybe it's a sign of their strong faith? I found myself talking of the issues and problems of the UK, only really showing myself up as immature and insensitive, to be honest. During the holiday club, the group did lots of activities, sports, music (started a recorder band!), parachute games, boat making, craft and mural painting. Lots of fun! The atmosphere was just happy. Perhaps instead of whinging about the UK, I should listen to our own holiday club message where 'Jesus says come, follow me.'

I guess to some people I might come



across like a condescending do-gooder, patronising the locals with wisdom from the West and maybe they are right. My gut feeling says that's not the whole story. The spiritual high we all felt, both Ugandan and British, that intense feeling of belonging to a family. All brought together in the body of Christ; it moved me in a way I didn't expect and can't explain. The trip was also hilarious, it was the most I have laughed all year.

This epic road trip has given me plenty to think about. Faces will stick in my memory clearly. One child was very clever about attempting to come back with me: "You don't want to take me home" she repeatedly cried with tears in her eyes. Well, she put a very good argument across.. As the trip was winding up and feeling fed up at the thought of leaving, we pulled up by the side of this never ending road, between Kamuli and Jinja. We hadn't broken down although I wouldn't have been too sad to be stranded in Africa. There was a lady there to greet us. She

proudly directed our attention to the vast fields of maize as far as the eye could see. A couple of years ago, this land had been given to CRU in a miraculous turn of events. Fantastic news, considering the long term plans for mosquito health clinics and dental amenities for local people. We had stopped to pray over the land and now we wait on God's word for how the plans might develop. If you would like to find out more about the ongoing projects or are considering supporting the charity, you can always visit

ChristianreliefUganda.org or you can speak to myself or, of course, Rhona Marshall.

Here's hoping I can visit my African home again soon!

Rachel Bradley, St Michael's Church



### People's March for Climate, Justice and Jobs

Sunday 29th November, starting from Park Lane (London) at 12am. proceeding through the West End past Westminster to Millbank We know that millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the impact of climate change right now. They are suffering first and worst from the consequences, and yet they are least to blame. If we don't tackle climate change, experts predict far more droughts, floods and extreme weather than we have ever known. Supported by Christian Aid, Tearfund, CAFOD and many other charities the People's March will raise awareness of the imminent and present dangers of runaway climate change prior to the UN Climate Conference in Paris For more details go to http:// www.campaigncc.org/29novdemo or contact David Mayers at davidjmayers@btinternet.com

## Vacancy

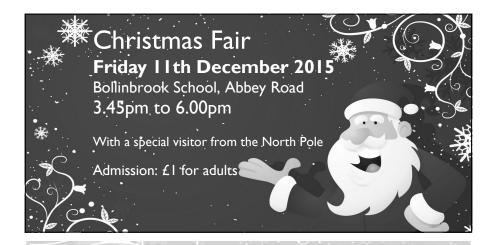
### at Bollinbrook CE (A) Primary Abbey Road

Bollinbrook CE Primary currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. This is a St Michael's PCC appointment, but interest is sought from within our four team churches.

If you are being called to this role, please speak to current governors Lynne Spedding (T.614819) or Rachel Mayers (T.420716) in the first instance.

Bollinbrook CE Primary School www.bollinbrook.cheshire.sch.uk





# St Michael's CHRISTMAS Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 9th December 2.00pm to 4.00pm

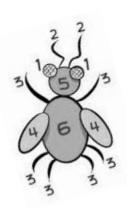
Hope you can join us to share this special time together You are warmly invited to join friends for an afternoon of fun, festive food and entertainment at St Michael's Church

Please sign up on the list at the back of church and obtain a ticket from the Church Office or members of the Social Committee.

Transport can be arranged – call Vicky Darlington. T: (01625) 428215

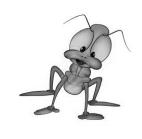
### **Beetle Drive**

at St Michael's Sunday 17th January 3.00pm to 5.00pm



Tea and cakes will be served.

Come and join us for an afternoon of fun, friendship and fellowship



### 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 - Jann Thorpe E: coordinator@stpetersmacc.org

### To book a church or hall

Contact the appropriate person:

#### **All Saints**

Jim Donaldson 01625 619050 jacjim@ntlworld.com

### St Barnabas

not currently taking bookings

#### St Michael's

Emma Kingdom: 01625 421984 stmichaelscoordinator@gmail.com

#### St Peter's

Mike Boardman: 01625 428646

All Saints, St Barnabas & St Michael's

Churches are now on



Give them a

Facebook



### MaccTeam Youth

Term time youth group 6:15pm to 7:45pm first and third Sundays at St Michael's Church and Teen Treacle from 1.00pm to 3.00pm on Treacle Sundays (last Sunday of the month).

For more information contact Anna T: 07817 780049

### Police Surgery with PCSO Karen Watson

at St Michael's Monthly on Thursdays 10.30-12.00

Next surgeries are:

28th January

No surgery in December

## 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 **Ist January.** 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 Calata Chanala (O.E. Clark)

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 29th January Friday 26th February

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





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