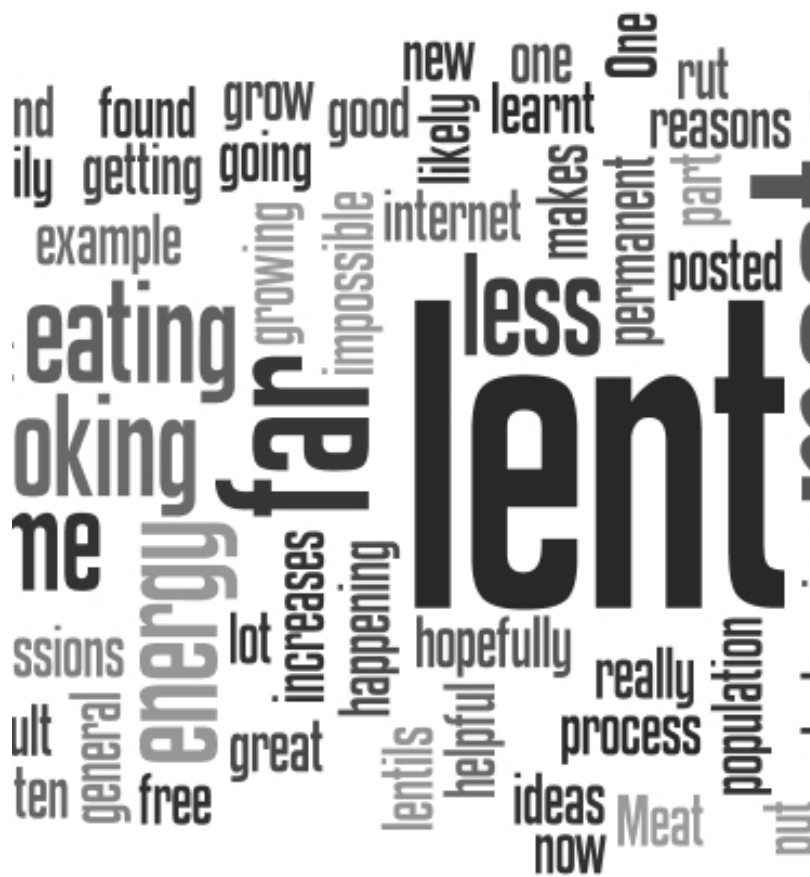


CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2016 FREE



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 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



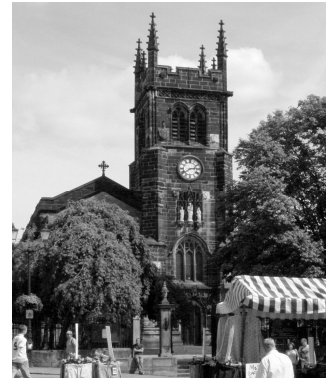
St Barnabas

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 1HW
stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

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FROM THE CLERGY

Bring them a moment of hope



The following headlines were on two pages of the Independent on Christmas Eve:

“Wave of bombings across Iraq leave 15 civilians dead”

“Assad regime accused of chemical weapon attack after five suffocate”

“One killed in Turkish airport explosion”

But on the other side of the double page were:

“The manger’s ready but will these pilgrims find peace on earth?”

“Modern day flight to Egypt brings fighting factions together in church”

“Christmas and being Christian is no holiday for Turkey’s newest church”

The Independent is not normally given to carrying stories of Christian good news. However, in each of the above three stories (Google the titles if you want to read more) there is a glimmer of hope in the Christian church functioning in places of despair.

In Bethlehem “being joyful is a way of defying occupation” says Bethlehem’s mayor “Even joy is right

for children. We want to bring them a moment of hope.”

In Cairo an Egyptian priest at All Saints Anglican Cathedral (pictured above) says “It’s one church with different languages. Same faith, same bible. One tradition and one liturgy – the difference is between Egyptian and Sudanese languages, that’s all.” The lay minister who leads the Sudanese and South Sudanese congregation says “We’re different in our languages or even our cultural background, and so forth. But in Christ we are united.”

And finally; Turkey’s newest church. Dark, run-down and grimy, it is housed in a former bakery in the town of Sanliurfa that no one wanted to use.

Just as the Virgin Mary gave birth in a stable after being turned away elsewhere, the tiny Protestant community in the southern Turkish province will seek to make the best of their humble space.

“We didn’t have money to buy or build a church,” the pastor, said Eyup Badem. “We are poor as a community. We didn’t get any help.”

Instead, they held a collection and found the old bakery for 2,500 Turkish lira (£575) a year. The location seems

fitting given the role of bread in the Bible and Christian practice, from the feeding of the 5,000 with two fishes and five loaves to Christ’s declaration: “I am the bread of life”. Pastor Eyup described the site as in a “very bad condition”, adding: “It will look like a poor church.” But he and his congregation are grateful to have a place to meet. Their community, made up of about 500 people who converted from Islam or are considering doing so, lives under a cloud of discrimination and the threat of physical violence.

The preacher, who converted to Christianity in 1991, lost his job because of his faith. He has been repeatedly threatened and beaten up, most recently by a gang of men he did not know. Even his eight-year-old daughter had suffered. Last year she returned home “covered in blood” after being attacked by other children at school.

Pastor Eyup said that his experience showed that understanding and education could help to foster greater acceptance. “Of course, I wish people would be more tolerant towards my religion in Turkey,” he said. “But when friends and people around me get to know Christ they become more moderate.”

“Christ was beaten, he was tortured, but he never complained about it,” he said. “He prayed for those who did these things.”

As we face uncertainly in our lives let us pray for and give thanks for those Christians showing amazing faith in great difficulties and let us also learn from them.

Revd David Wightman

Lent & Holy Week

Ash Wednesday Service

10th February

Time together to start Lent

7.00pm at Macclesfield Methodist Church

*A service of prayer and worship
including the marking with ash*

Maundy Thursday Service

23rd March

Tenebrae

7.30pm at United Reformed Church

*Readings and prayers among gradually
extinguished candles*

Good Friday Service

24th March

The Good Friday Service

10.30am at St Michael's Church

Speaker: Revd Dave Mock

Team Vicar, Macc Team Ministry

Contemplating the Cross

2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Savage Chapel

at St Michael's Church

Readings, reflections, silence and music

*"Macclesfield Town Centre
Churches working together"*

Studies in Lent

Led by Dave Mock, Chris Whiteley & Marion Tugwood

**A series of evenings talking
about important essentials
of the Christian faith**

The role of the:

Politician: Pilate

Religious Leader: Nicodemus

Secret Disciple: Caiaphas

Thursday evenings

7.30pm to 9.00pm

at St Michael's Church

on:

3rd March

10th March

17th March

Please bring along a Bible to the session.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



What is a pilgrim? When our group of 25 led by Bishop John Hayden arrived in the Holy Land we were met by our guide Peter, an Arab Christian who asked us this question. He said it was important we remembered we were pilgrims & not just tourists. We should be closed for renovation & open to reconstruction. At times it was hard to switch off from the world with so much bad news, Israel & Palestine, Beirut, Paris, Syria & so many other places & they were in our thoughts & prayers.

So our journey started. We were out each morning by 8am travelling all over the Holy Land between Caesarea Philippi in the north and the Dead Sea in the south. We visited so many wonderful places which made the bible, both Old and New Testament come alive giving us so much to think about.

These are some of my highlights. Bethlehem - being here brings home the Israel Palestine conflict as you enter the "walled" town past armed soldiers. We can only hope and pray that there can be understanding on both sides, with give and take to end this. It is a very busy town with visitors as it must have been that first Christmas Eve. We were so blessed as we reached the Church of the Nativity - no queue! So, when we reached the place that marks Jesus birth our group were the only ones there. It was so wonderful just to be there without the busyness, giving us time for thoughts and prayers. Looking out across to the shepherds fields is another special place to imagine that first Christmas. Jerusalem - also very busy with visitors, again so much to see and experience. One afternoon we arrived back to our hotel by the Jaffa gate mid afternoon so John led us on a walk

through different areas of the city to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which traditionally marks the place of Calvary. Again, we were blessed: no queue at the tomb, so again giving us

(Continued on page 16)



Who is my enemy?



In January 2015, someone started a website that sold glitter bombs. The idea was simple. What you purchased was a package full of glitter which would spray a fountain of glitter all over the person opening the box and the room they were standing in. This was promoted as an excellent way to get back at your enemies. And the take up was so huge when this was reported in a national newspaper, the website crashed and the supplier had problems filling the orders. I wonder if you have enemies and I wonder how you decide they are “enemies” rather than people you just don’t get on with, or don’t like for some reason. People become our enemies for a variety of reasons and once they have enemy status, it is hard for them to ever be a possible friend.

We can carry this need for an enemy into our reading of the bible too. We naturally divide characters into good and bad guys. Israel had its enemies, mostly tribes with

names that make people who read on Sundays quake with fear. In the New Testament, Jesus has lots of opponents who we like to label enemies too.

We are often more comfortable when we can divide our world into good guys and bad guys. The bad guys are often those who frighten us, or disagree with us. We always find it hard to think someone else sees us as their enemy which compounds the problem. But Jesus wasn’t comfortable with this black and white view of the world nor did he base his ministry on it:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. *Matthew 5*

He rebuked and chastised those who would slam shut the doors of the kingdom, but his work of salvation was for them too. The apostle Paul also wrote that once we were God’s enemies but through his work and efforts he reconciled us to him as friends. God isn’t in the business of

cultivating enemies and neither should we.

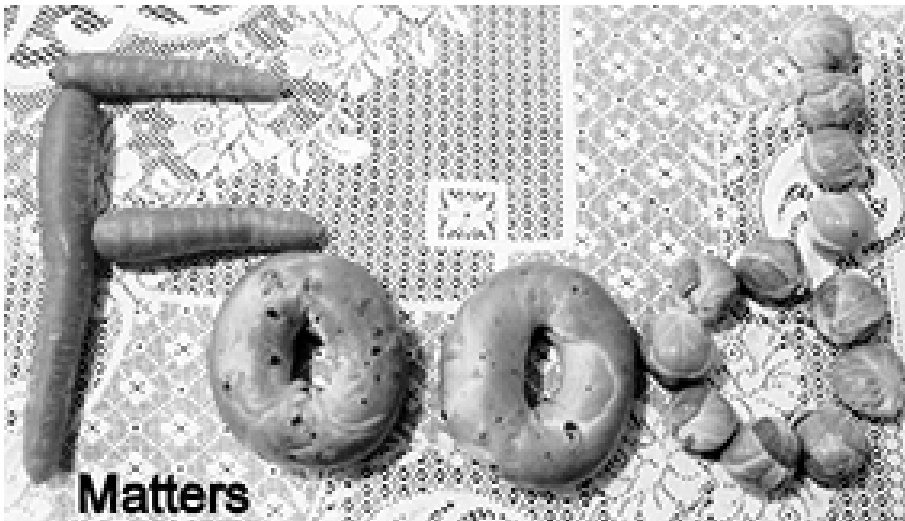
Following Jesus is not about dividing the world into good and bad, but rather about taking on his life as ours while going into the world and offering good news to all who will listen and receive it. Following Jesus is about discovering life in abundance and living that life fully.

It is during Lent that we deliberately set aside the time to look deeply into what we are really like and what we really desire. It is a time to redefine how the world works by looking at it through who Jesus really is and what he truly desires.

Lent is a time to hold a mirror to ourselves and ask what we really desire. To strip away the desires and habits that lead us to making others, ourselves and God our enemies. To strip away all that strips us of our humanity and our vocation of bearing the image of God into the world.

Revd Dave Mock

Lent Challenge 2016



During 2016 across the Diocese of Chester, a new project called "Food Matters 2016" will be highlighting our relationship with food and the importance of living sustainably.

As part of the project we want to encourage clergy and parishioners to undertake a practical lent challenge and commit to "living on less" during Lent.

Within the Christian Church, there is a long tradition of fasting during Lent. It's a spiritual discipline that helps us to identify with Christ's 40 days in the wilderness and to focus our prayers on the needs of the poorest people in society. In recent years, many churches have adopted a message of simplicity during Lent, encouraging people to live on less. Whether cutting out certain foods or living for a few days on a limited diet, fasting can bring a focus to our prayer lives and encourage us to respond charitably to the needs of others.

Please do not embark on any of the Lent challenges if you have a medical condition or you are pregnant. (However you can sponsor someone else taking the challenge!)

Ideas for Action in Lent

The following ideas use food as a central part of the challenge. Here are a few guidelines to help you when embarking on any of these challenges:

- Plan your meals in advance. It is a real challenge to live on a limited budget and you will have to be creative in using your ingredients.
- Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water.
- Donate the money you save to charity.
- Reflect on the experience of the lent challenge by sharing your stories in

church or by keeping a diary or blog. If you use social media why not take some photos of your meals and post them on Twitter or Facebook? We would really like to know how you get on, so please share your reflections with us.

Pray for all those experiencing hardship and poverty using your experience to inform your prayers.

Global Poverty Project - £1 challenge

In recent years The Global Poverty Project has run a campaign challenging people to live on £1 per day for 5 consecutive days and donate money to charities tackling poverty. The Live Below the Line Campaign isn't officially running until 2017, but you can find a list of charities that directly work to tackle poverty here

Could you live on £1 for 1 day of each week in Lent (10th Feb to 24th March 2016) in solidarity with millions of people worldwide who live in poverty? You are free to choose a day of the week that is convenient for you, but you commit to spending only £1 on food and drink for the whole day. Alternatively you can opt to live below the poverty line for 5 consecutive days, (spending £5 in total) if it is easier for you to shop and cook this way. If you are planning to "Live on Less" during Lent please don't forget to donate to charity!

Recipes to help you live on less

If you're planning to live on less during Lent, you can find recipe ideas and shopping lists to help you plan: Jack Monroe has plenty of low budget recipes on her website. "Thrifty Lesley" is another great website with meal plans for 1 person spending £1 per day.

The Diocese would like to know if you're undertaking any of the Lent challenges as they would really like to share your stories and reflections. Email ruth.mock@chester.anglican.org for more information or to pledge to take on a lent challenge.

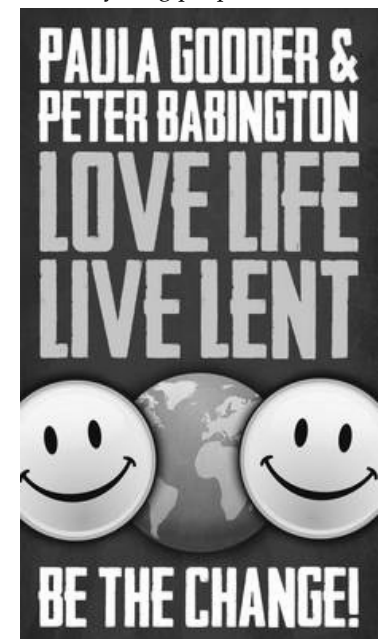
Chester Diocese
Committee for Social Responsibility

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

By Egores/istockphoto

Love Life, Live Lent

The booklet sets out 50 things to do during Lent. The big idea is to inspire us to perform acts of generosity that encourage kindness to ourselves, our neighbours and our planet. It's all about doing something positive and enriching our life and the life of our community. £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for young people.



My VSO Adventure



Jean Paul says, "Thanks for helping my family", and so do I (Tricia Atherton)

I have spent a pleasant and inspiring few hours reading through the blog which I started in December 2010 because I was preparing for a new adventure in my life. I had signed up for a two year placement with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) and had been placed in Rwanda as Education Leadership Advisor in the district of Muhanga. And what an adventure it turned out to be! How could I have predicted what would happen and to what it would lead?

In the early days everything was so new and there was so much to learn every day, no, every moment of every day. I remember, much of the time I hadn't got a clue what was going on, but I learnt to relax and just let life happen. Eventually it would usually become clear - but not always! Sometimes I never understood what had happened and why, but I grew to love this country and it's wonderful people.

My first trip to the village of Gasundwe in Nyamasheke District was one of the most exciting events of my life and I still feel privileged to have been given that opportunity. You can read about it by going to the blog entry dated 20/02/11.

I have been back to the village many, many times since then and so much has happened for them and for me, and this blog tells the story of those

adventures. It has been lovely to read it again. Of course it also includes my experiences working for VSO and the experience of living in Rwanda for two and half years.

But back to the village - At this point, five years on, we can celebrate and be thankful for many blessings:

Every school day for five years the youngest children in the village have had a protein meal, and for four years we have sent children to the local Primary schools. Those children have been taught at our Nursery School by a talented, dedicated now highly skilled teacher using interactive learning methods. We now have two teachers and a cook working full time.

This year we have concentrated our efforts on the design and building of a Children's Centre which will incorporate our Nursery school and also provide space for an adult workshop and a Health Worker.

It became very clear on my last visit in 2015 that there is a great need for basic health and sanitation facilities and education. Consequently, we are now raising money to provide new toilet facilities. The plans are in place for a set of African Dry toilets, we just need more cash (hint, hint!)

I was thrilled last year when some friends agreed to help me form a registered charity and thanks to lots of hard work we achieved charitable status in June 2015. Two of the

trustees, Lynne and Darryl came to the village last summer for the first time and gave great impetus to the building project.

I am packing my suitcase once again to return to Rwanda this week, I will stay for two months. Two other trustees, Chris and Margo, will come to visit the village for the first time and they each have specific tasks that they need to do. My particular task now is to look towards income generation and listen to advice and proposals from the locals. I keep my ears open and I try to network with others in Rwanda who may be able to give us skills training.

The aim has always been for the village and the school to be self sustaining by the year 2020. Yikes! That's only four years away!!! Better get cracking.

Tricia Atherton, St Michael's Church



On behalf of the Macclesfield Children Society I would like to thank all of you who so kindly donated your unwanted toiletries for our stall at the Charities Bazaar.

After some dressing up 'Christmas style' they did look rather smart. Our customers must have thought so because they sold pretty quickly. In fact I would go so far to say our stall was definitely 'best in show'.

We are proud that our committee is represented by a number of local churches. Of course our own St Michaels', St Paul's, St John's, Holy Trinity, Rainow, St Peter's, St James', Gawsworth and Sutton St James. Some of our Christmas fund raising includes card sales, Christingle services and carol singing, so hopefully of lot of money will be raised for the Children's Society.

Jenny Wild



Celebrating 895,000 Shoebox Gifts



*You
made a
difference.....*

*I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.
Ephesians 1:16*

We are delighted to share that your churches contributed to us being able to send over 895,000 shoebox gifts from the UK in 2015. Globally, we delivered over 11.2 million shoeboxes, with many being given to children currently living in refugee camps.

Hundreds of churches and individuals lovingly packed these gifts, whilst thousands of dedicated volunteers carefully checked and prayed over each one. That is an amazing effort that we would never have accomplished without your involvement – you were an integral part of this campaign and for that we want to thank you!

Daniel Stracinski, our CONNECT Prayer Co-ordinator for the OCC Team in Montenegro, tells us of the impact these gifts have on a community.

"The children were very happy; one boy opened his shoebox and found a Frisbee. He started jumping, running around, calling his friends and showing everyone. Another boy took out a cap and gloves from his shoebox and put them on for everyone to see. It was such a special time for that small town and school in a remote mountain area."

Thank you
Samaritan's Purse

MESSY CHURCH

All Saints

SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

Theme: Jesus-The Miracle maker

Lots of CRAFTS & GAMES

Songs & story time

Meal for the Family
Suggested donation £1pp

For more info
Please contact
Dave the Vicar on
01625 432919

Or like our Facebook page
All Saints Macclesfield Messy Church

Directions can be found at
allsaintschurchmacclesfield.weebly.com

Fairtrade Fortnight

29 February - 13 March



CHOOSE PRODUCTS THAT CHANGE LIVES



As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast.

There are approximately 2 billion people in the world who depend on

smallholder farming, living on 500,000 smallholder farms.

Half of the world's hungry people are estimated to live on small farms. 30 million smallholder farmers produce most of the world's coffee and cocoa. Over 80 percent of the world's coffee and 90 percent of the world's cocoa is grown by smallholders.

When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and

workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, we will be encouraging campaigners to inspire a multitude of Fairtrade breakfasts in their community – and wake others up to the challenges facing farmers and workers.



Macclesfield Events

Make it count so farmers can feed their families

Fairtrade Dates

Fairtrade

Art Display

by Macc Primary Schools
from Monday 29th February
to Saturday 12th March
at the Gallery, Macc Library

**WAKING UP TO
THE POWER OF
A FAIRTRADE
BREAKFAST**

Fairtrade Breakfast

Saturday 27th February

Hope Centre

Saturday 5th March

Macclesfield Library

10.00am to 12.00pm

Please check the Macclesfield Fairtrade website for details of more events including Fairtrade/ Tearcraft stalls and more places hosting a Fairtrade breakfast.

www.macclesfieldfairtrade.org.uk

Food Insecurities: The Facts

MAYBE THIS MORNING YOU ENJOYED...



Fifty years on from Martin Luther King's famous speech, our lives are more closely entwined than ever.

Fairtrade Fortnight will focus on issues of food security in 2016.

For farmers and workers, being food secure is knowing they can get nutritious food for all their family to be healthy, all year round. It means they have access to the food they need, when they need it.

A key reason for food insecurity in developing countries is financial insecurity – in other words, when people do not even get paid enough to be able to cover all their household expenses. If there's more money going out of the household than coming in, this can lead to some difficult decisions. Parents may skip meals to save money to be able to send their children to school.

When the unexpected happens, such as illness in the family or an

accident, this might mean a medical bill has to be paid, leaving less money for food. If a harvest fails or can't be sold for a high enough price, incomes have to stretch further. But being able to grow some of the household's food themselves, or having some savings or getting better prices means that families can cope better with these emergencies.

Food security is about more than just hunger. It's about how confident people are about being able to put food on the table, combining job/income security, food availability and sustainability, predictions about crop yields, market data and much more.

**BEFORE YOU FINISH
EATING BREAKFAST
IN THE MORNING,
YOU'VE DEPENDED
ON MORE THAN
HALF THE WORLD**

**BRING THE
BIG FAIRTRADE
BREAKFAST!
TO YOUR COMMUNITY**



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.

5th February
4th March

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

14th February Robert Marshall
13th March Mike Wootton

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 6th FEBRUARY
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
7th February <i>Sunday bfr Lent</i>	9.30am Informal Worship
14th February <i>Lent 1</i>	9.30am Holy Communion
21st February <i>Lent 2</i>	9.30am Morning Worship
28th February <i>Lent 3</i>	9.30am Holy Communion
6th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.30am Informal Worship
13th March <i>Lent 5</i>	9.30am Holy Communion
20th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30am Morning Worship
27th March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9.30am Holy Communion

Vacancy: Foundation Governor

Bollinbrook School

We currently have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor to join a highly motivated team at Bollinbrook School. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Lynne Spedding on 01625 614819 or Rachel Mayers on 01625 421716 for an informal chat. Term of office is for three years and you will need to be willing to undergo a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check.



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	7th February <i>Sunday bfr Lent</i>
11.15am All Age	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	14th February <i>Lent 1</i>
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service with Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion	21st February <i>Lent 2</i>
11.15am Morning Prayer	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Treacle Service (informal worship) with Bollinbrook School	9.30am Worship for All	28th February <i>Lent 3</i>
11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Joint Service for Mothering Sunday & Uniformed Parade	9,30am Holy Communion	6th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
11.15am All Age	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	13th March <i>Lent 5</i>
11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Storytelling Service 11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Worship for All	20th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>
11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion (Joint Service)	9.30am Holy Communion	27th March <i>Easter Sunday</i>

Fundraising & Awareness Raising Event for Cre8

Wednesday 10th February at St Michael's Church between 10.30am and 2.00pm

A coffee morning with a chance to buy cakes from the cake stall.

There will also be soup and roll on offer at lunchtime between 12.00 and 2.00pm. All donations received will be given to Cre-8 to help and support them in their work both on the Moss Estate and in the wider community.

There will be people from Cre-8 on hand to talk about their work and a display of what they have achieved so far – do come along and support this event and invite your friends, too! You can either have a cake and coffee/tea or soup and a roll over the lunchtime period – look forward to seeing you on the 10th February.



Open the Book

Like to get involved?

Enabling every child to hear the story of the Bible at school in their primary years.

Children love stories – especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun.

Open the Book began in Bedford in 1999, when a group of Christians started presenting Bible stories in school assemblies. It was so popular it grew and grew, becoming a national charity. In 2013 Open the Book became part of Bible Society.

Since 1999 thousands of school children have discovered Bible stories, during assembly and collective worship.

Today, so many children could miss out on the great classic stories from the Bible – Noah, Daniel and the life of Jesus could be closed chapters if youngsters don't get an opportunity to engage with the Bible.

That's why Open the Book is so important. It's a three-year rolling programme of themed and dramatised storytelling at no charge to primary schools. Teams of volunteers throughout the country use drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – to present the Bible stories in lively and informative ways.

A taster session has now been organised for Thursday 21st April at All Saints church. Come along and find out more.



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





Want to join the fun with Open the Book, see opposite



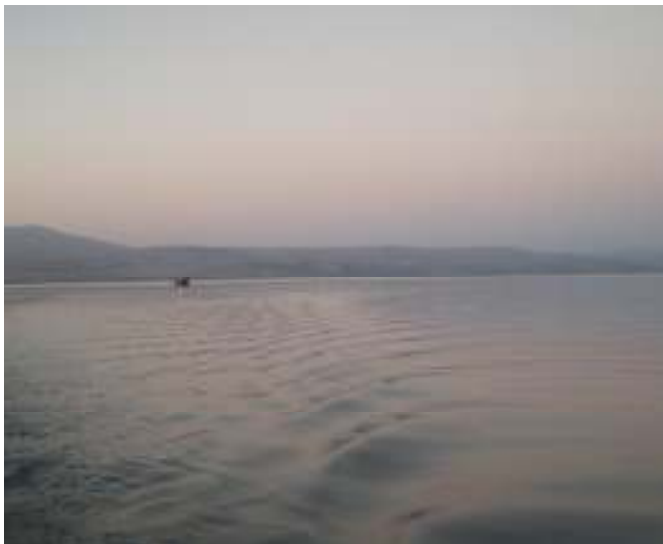


(Continued from page 5)

time for reflection.

The most special place for me is Galilee, where Jesus grew up and played, started his work, chose and trained his disciples. This is where I could really feel him. I could imagine him sailing on Galilee when the lake was still and when it was rough, talking to the crowds from a boat in one of the bays, people following him over the hills, staying in Peter's house in Capernaum, preaching the Sermon on the Mount and taking time out to pray. This visit with everything we did and experienced, our group of fellow pilgrims and guide whose Christian faith was infectious has touched a place inside me, something that will stay with me for a long time.

Margaret Marsh, All Saints Church



Pilgrim's Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, you simply said two words to the apostle Peter and he left everything behind him and followed you. From the very beginning he was open to the possibility of having his identity and faith challenged.

I, too, O Lord want to follow you. I am also open to the possibility of having my identity and faith perceptions challenged. I have come to seek you. I want to walk with you, see you and hear your voice, like the other disciples did. I surrender myself to you. Write your gospel in my heart, open my mind to receive your grace. Help me gain a new insight into my true self. Help me relieve my anxieties and frustrations when things do not seem to go my way. Help me become a permanent pilgrim, instead of a passing tourist.

Teach me the way to embrace with love my brothers and sisters on this pilgrimage and in this land as you embraced those you met and ultimately your cross.

Lord, I have left family and friends behind. I ask you to keep them in your care and grace. Grant them patience and peace of heart, knowing that I am seeking a transformed spiritual relationship with you.

I am following in your footsteps O Lord hoping that when I return home, I will be a better person than the one who set out
Amen.

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
jonathanstewartaikrn@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:
4th February
10th March

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 March**. 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

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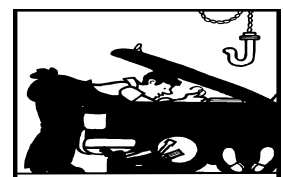
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Christmas Afternoon Tea



The Nativity