

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

31st May 2026 – TRINITY SUNDAY



Come, Holy Spirit ...

Jesus promised the disciples and us,

"If you love me ... I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. ... you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you." (John 14:15-17).

On the first Pentecost we have the vivid description of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit;

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

As Christians, we are exhorted to pray daily 'Come, Holy Spirit', for ourselves and for other people.

During last Sunday's Pentecost Service, we not only **heard** two people (Sue O & Kev R) share **how** they experience the Holy Spirit as God's living presence to guide and nudge them at times, but we saw it too, when Catherine was compelled to tell us what she felt God had given her to share. (*You can watch the whole service on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield>) with the conversations happening about 30 minutes in).*)

And here is **Sallie B** sharing about the specialness of one particular hymn "**Come, Holy Ghost ...**"

One of many cherished memories of my Dad is from my teenage years, early 1980s. One rainy day we had a trip to Beaumaris Castle.



We took refuge in the chapel and Dad sang (he had a wonderful tenor voice) this beautiful plainsong hymn. People stopped and listened. I'm sure that should he have put out a hat, it would have been full. Even in latter years, as his memory failed, he could still sing this with me.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold* gifts impart:

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

This hymn is a favourite of mine. As well as being a Pentecost hymn, it's used for confirmations, ordinations & coronations. It has been around a long time, traditionally attributed to a 9th Century Benedictine scholar. It's longevity and continual use is down to its relevance through the years: our constant need of the Holy Spirit.

*The seven-fold gifts referred to in the first verse are based on scripture, referring to those given to Jesus;

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3).

How ever we came to faith, by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, these gifts [of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel (God's intuitive judgement), Might (Fortitude/Courage), Knowledge, Piety, and Fear (awe) of the Lord] empower our personal relationship with God. It's through the Holy Spirit that the outward gifts and fruit of the Spirit (as listed in the New Testament) are enabled

'Come, Holy Ghost' is a hymn for the Church. It's not just a personal prayer but a prayer for the community that makes up the Body of Christ. We are called to know the Trinity, the importance of the Three in One that cannot be separated.

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill our souls with Your love, purify us and give us Your light. Bless us with the gifts enabling our relationship with You. Keep us safe from spiritual attack and temptations and give us that deep peace only found in your presence. Amen.



@stmikesmacclesfield



01625 421 984



Market Place, SK10 1DY

Caring for God's Creation

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son ... (John 3:16)

God created the world, and He loves it so much that He sent His son to die on the cross to restore it, and us! If He loves it that much, what does that mean for us?

In the Church of England, and here at St Michael's, the message is clearly and concisely stated in what is known as **'The Five Marks of Mission'**.



Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

• **Tell**



Teach, nurture, and baptize new believers.

• **Teach**



Respond to human need by loving service.

• **Tend**



Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

• **Transform**



Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

• **Treasure**

Narrative:

Recognising that *'The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it'* (Ps.24:1), and that God has given humankind a special responsibility for the good stewardship of Creation, our Christian faith spurs us to care for, improve and enjoy our natural environment.

In 2020, St Michael's Vision Day led to the Church Council adopting three **Strategic Objectives**, the third of which is **'Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation'**.

In practice this means: "To demonstrate our commitment to celebrate and sustain God's creation in all areas of church life, and to welcome & encourage the wider town community to participate in and enjoy the benefits of these endeavours.

Exploring this objective further gives us some guidelines as to how to put the *5th Mark of Mission* into effect in our ministry here in Macclesfield.

Challenging words. And in the current heatwave it's clear that Creation Care should be at the **heart** of what we do, how we live and how we relate to the wider community. It's not an optional extra!

9 years ago St Michael's registered as an Eco-Church - to affirm our stance on Creation Care. A small group meets regularly to agree actions on how to move forward. We've achieved both **Bronze** and **Silver** Eco-church award status – *among the first in Chester Diocese to do so.*

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



We're now working on achieving **Gold** award, but it is proving more difficult. Please will you consider joining this group, since we need more people to contribute? Speak to me, David Mayers, if you're interested.

In the meantime look out for these forthcoming opportunities to pray, think about and act on Creation Care:

- **Sat 6th June** (10:30am-12:30pm) Screaming Swift Party (*notice right*)
- **Sun 7th June** (10am) Morning Service to celebrate **World Environment Day** and **Churches Count on Nature**
- **Mon 29th June** 6-7.30pm Swift Walk - meet in the churchyard with the local RSPB Explorer leaders. *Are there any swifts residing in our swift boxes?!*
- **Monday 27th July** 7.30pm in church - Eco-church group meeting. All welcome.
- **Tues 1st September** **START of the Season of Creation!** 6.30pm Prayer Service at Riverside Park.

FINALLY, look out for the programme for the rest of the **Season of Creation** when it appears next month.

Are you passionate about wildlife and aged 6–19? Then **Macclesfield Wildlife Explorers** is the place for you!



Screaming Swift Party

Saturday 7th June 2026

10:30am – 12:30pm

St. Michael's Church grounds

Join Macclesfield Wildlife Explorers at their outdoor session to learn more about nature and help protect it!

All sessions are free to attend although donations are welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the sessions.

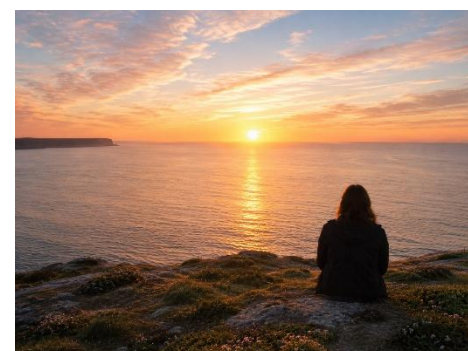
A SPECTACULAR SUNSET

If I could catch that fiery golden ball,
Before it deeps and slips away from sight,
So many other eyes it could enthral,
And scare away the darkness into light.

The magic of that glowing, warming orb
Has captivated masses since its prime.
It disappears, and then returns once more,
And sets a rhythm for the earth called time.

And over time we've learnt it's always there.
Although we cannot see it in the night.
A constant source, creating sky and air,
From what great spirit comes this glorious sight?

by Dorothy Bentley Smith





We've often been talking about it, we used a clip of it on Pentecost Sunday, and a couple of our home groups have started watching it. We're now going to be hosting watch-parties (with food) in St Michael's for **The Chosen**. On **Sunday afternoons in June & July, from 5pm**. Further info from Revd Martin or Tricia A.

treaclemarket

Today is Treacle Sunday when we open our doors and welcome people in.
Open 11.30am to 3pm

If you could help for a while (greet, steward, serve drinks, wash up, clean/clear up, etc) then please speak to Vicky

You'll know how many people visit Macclesfield for the monthly Treacle Market. Do you know how many of them visit St Michael's whilst they're here?

We've a good bunch of church members who welcome our visitors each month. What would it take for you to be interested in joining them? Talk to Vicky or Martin to let them know 😊.

We offer Prayer Ministry after every morning service (now near the pulpit)

If you've a concern for yourself OR someone else, bring it to God

Our prayer ministers are:

- respectful (won't pry)
- confidential (won't gossip), and
- faithful (it's about God, not them)

Team leader: Sue Olley

This past week marks the first anniversary since our Prayer Ministry Team were commissioned by Bishop Sam! Thank you to the Team for your commitment of being willing to pray for the concerns people bring (sometimes for others). Following feedback, **Prayer Ministry now takes place near the pulpit / organ pipes in the North aisle.**

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell is visiting Chester next Tuesday, 2nd June. Rachel M, Sallie B & Revd Martin S are going to hear ++Stephen and his team at the Cathedral. If you would like to join them and learn more about **Faith in the North** and **Pilgrim Places** - two initiatives which are very pertinent for St Michael's ministry - then please speak to one of them. We'd love to need to take a second car!

FAITH IN THE NORTH

Faith in the North is designed to help churches see their visitors as pilgrims and their buildings as a way to foster spiritual growth.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell
Chester Cathedral
7-9pm on Tues 2nd June

Foodie Friday is a special time when our surplus-food café 'Angel at my Table' serves a really lovely 3-course meal (with a choice of courses).

As a 'pay-as-you-feel' basis (though a guide amount is suggested) Foodie Friday is an opportunity to support the overheads of Angel at my Table, as well as eating a meal in the company of others.

Booking essential. Special diets can be catered for. BYOB (if you want something more than water or squash).

Angel at my Table

FOODIE FRIDAY

PAY-AS-YOU-FEEL 3-COURSE MEAL
Card Payments accepted

arrive from 6pm, seated for 6:30pm

Book via the Church Office 01625 421 984 (special diets catered for)

The next Macclesfield-wide Youth event takes place a week on Sunday at Holy Trinity, Hurdsfield. Booking required, via: <https://holyltrinityhurdsfield.churchsuite.com/events/qkhrhcac>

AMPLIFIED

7/6/2026 HTH CHURCH 6:00 - 7:30 PM

PLUS SILENT DISCO UNTIL 8:30 PM

SIGN UP HERE [QR CODE]

@MACCAMPLIFIED

Salt and Light Renewed

Reviewing Our Calling,
Discerning Our Future

St Michael's Vision Day
7th March

MANY apologies for not circulating the following information sooner. It is the summary of the analysis of the output from our Salt and Light Renewed Vision Day which we held at the beginning of March.

As well as it taking Rebecca and Jon from the Diocese quite some time to collate and summarise everything we discussed and left with them from the Vision Day, there

Top Strategic Priorities for St Michael & All Angels

These priorities are designed to be *practical, achievable*, and *aligned with the core themes that repeatedly appear across the SWOT tables*.

1. Strengthen the Volunteer Base & Prevent Burnout

Your SWOT highlights recurring issues: not enough volunteers, ageing membership, people doing too much, difficulty recruiting or training new helpers.

Strategic actions could include:

- Introduce a **coordinated volunteering system** with clear role descriptions.
- Launch a **recruitment and onboarding process**, especially targeting newcomers and younger adults.
- Create a **succession and skills-transfer plan** for key roles.
- Explore **paid part-time posts** (e.g., Operations Manager, Children's & Families Worker) to stabilise pressure on volunteers.

2. Develop a Focused Missional Strategy: "Do 3 Things Well"

Several tables point out that the church is *doing too much*, lacks a clear mechanism for decision-making, and risks overextension.

Strategic actions:

- Define a **small number of core priorities** (children & families, discipleship, community engagement, etc.).
- Review current ministries and **gracefully retire or pause** activities that no longer align with strategic focus.
- Implement a **decision-making framework** so initiatives are evaluated consistently.

have been other demands (as well as oversights) which have meant this kept dropping lower on the list, sorry!

Anyway, here is the high-level summary which a small group from St Michael's will take further, including in meetings with Rebecca and Jon, the first of which is next month. So please pray for us as we seek to strengthen who we are and what we do as St Michael's Church family.

MAC Initiative – 1. Town Centre Civic Mission

THE CREATION OF A VISION FOR THE CIVIC MISSION
IN MACCLESFIELD AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*to be led by Revd Martin Stephens and supported
by Jon Pocock and his team from the Diocese.*

3. Rebuild & Reinforce Discipleship Pathways

Weaknesses point to limited home groups, no regular seekers courses, and a need for deeper discipleship.

Strategic actions:

- Restart **Alpha or Seekers courses** as a regular rhythm.
- Expand **home groups**, ensuring variety in style and accessibility.
- Provide **clear pathways for newcomers**: welcome → explore → belong → serve.
- Strengthen the culture of **prayer**, including intercessory support for ministries.

4. Invest in Children's, Youth & Families Ministry

Multiple tables highlight low numbers of young people, demoralised children's leaders, and missed opportunities for family engagement.

Strategic actions:

- Develop a **Children & Families Ministry Strategy** (0-18).
- Partner with schools to promote **children's choir** and musical activities.
- Create **new touchpoints for families** (breakfast church, after-school activities, parenting groups).
- Increase volunteer support and training to prevent burnout.

Salt and Light Renewed

Reviewing Our Calling,
Discerning Our Future

St Michael's Vision Day
7th March

5. Maximise the Building & Arts Partnerships to Support Mission

Your location, visibility, and artistic engagement are major strengths & offer substantial opportunities.

Strategic actions:

- Expand partnerships with **Silk Museum**, arts organisations, and community groups.
- Use exhibitions, concerts, and civic events as **on-ramps to deeper engagement**.
- Improve stewardship of space to reduce clashes and support simultaneous activities.
- Explore long-term plans for a **dedicated flexible space** or hall-equivalent.

6. Improve Technology, Sound, and Communication Systems

Tech weaknesses and communication issues appear in multiple places (sound system failures, unclear notices, website improvements needed).

Strategic actions:

- Invest in **reliable sound, hearing loop, and AV systems**.
- Create a **communications strategy**: website, social media, internal notices, signage.
- Assign or train a **communications lead** (volunteer or paid role).
- Regularly update screens, service information, and publicity materials.

7. Strengthen Community Engagement & Follow-Up

Many visitors come into the building through café, exhibitions, concerts, and open church hours, but follow-up is inconsistent.

Strategic actions:

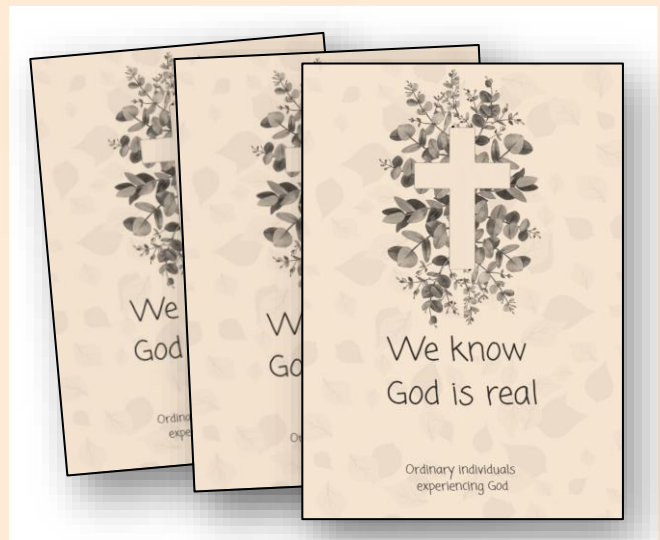
- Develop a **visitor engagement plan**—gentle, warm, non-overwhelming.
- Improve data capture (e.g., feedback cards, QR sign-in for events).
- Create a simple **"next steps" offer** for people exploring faith or community involvement.
- Expand pastoral connection through **renewed pastoral networks**

Recommended Top 3 to Start With

If you need to prioritise immediately, these three offer the greatest impact and are prerequisites for everything else:

- **Build and coordinate the volunteer base**
- **Rebuild and reinforce discipleship pathways**
- **Invest in children's, youth, and families' ministry**

These address the most urgent weaknesses and biggest opportunities, and will support long-term sustainability.



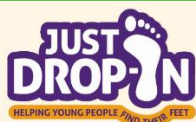
Thank you to those people who've already submitted something for 'our response' to our Lent groups. **Then** we used the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God'.

Last week we issued the first collation of people's contributions. Copies available in church or we can email you one (send a request to clergypa@maccteam.org.uk)

And if you'd like to submit your own 'story' (up to 250 words) for a future booklet, please send to same address.

Details of other events & activities happening soon in Macclesfield, facilitated by organisations we support.

In the first instance, contact **The Hope Centre, Just Drop In,** or **East Cheshire Hospice** for more information.



You are warmly invited to the
*Blessing of the
Just Drop-In Memory Tree*

Sunday 7th June
From 3pm
At St Peter's Church,
Windmill Street,
Macclesfield,
SK11 7HS

No RSVP needed.

For more information contact Ann
Wright: ann.wright@justdropin.co.uk



THE HOPE CENTRE IS HOSTING A TALK BY
END OF LIFE PARTNERSHIP
WITH SUPPORT FROM TENANCY SUSTAINMENT
AT
PEAKS AND PLAINS HOUSING TRUST.

UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA
AT
THE HOPE CENTRE
16-18 PARK GREEN, MACCLESFIELD
SK11 7NA
WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE
1PM UNTIL 3PM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK ON PLEASE
RING/TEXT
07580977001
OR EMAIL
JAYNE.SHAW@PEAKSPLAINS.ORG

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



The Hope Centre

CHARITY MARKET DAY!

Join us for a fun-filled day of
bargain hunting! All proceeds
go to The Hope Centre.



**SATURDAY,
MAY 30TH & JUNE 6TH**

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
The Hope Centre,
16-18 Park Green,
SK11 7NA

You'll find:

- Gifts
- Cards
- Books
- Clothes & Knitwear
- Toiletries

Hot and cold drinks and cakes available
to purchase from the cafe counter.



»» Don't miss out – amazing prices! ««

01625 404384 | www.hopecentremacclesfield.co.uk



OPEN GARDEN

in aid of
East Cheshire Hospice

Saturday 1st August 2026
12am - 4pm

£5 admission - includes
tea/coffee & cake.

Prosecco & Raffle

Two Trees,
55 Byrons Lane,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
SK11 7 JW

Sorry, garden is not
suitable for
wheelchairs/prams.

Dogs are welcome.

Registered Charity 515104



Sunday 31st May Worship

10:00am: Trinity Sunday Church Family Worship
(with groups for children and young people).

Leader: Revd Martin Stephens (Team Rector)
Speaker: Martin Bancroft (LLM)

Use the link below to stream this
(and previous services) on YouTube
www.youtube.com/@stmikesmacclesfield



In CFW on Pentecost Sunday, we showed a video clip from the multi-season series of the life and ministry of Jesus & His followers.

Two of our home-groups have begun watching and discussing the first series of 'The Chosen'. We'd like to offer the same opportunity to other people too. Starting on Sunday 7th June, we'll be showing **The Chosen**. We'll begin at 5pm, and will have food available so we can watch and eat together.. For more info, contact Revd Martin or Tricia Atherton.

Start the Week

Every Monday from 7.30am in church
Morning Prayer at 8.30 am in church and also on Facebook - [Link to Facebook](#)

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel - lasting 30-40 minutes.
Next Meetings: **10th June, 24th June**


Thursday Worship 10:30am (35-40 mins)

Our midweek services follow the order from the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) and alternate between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

4th June: Midweek Communion Service

11th June: Midweek Morning Prayer

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer morning and evening groups 
Please contact Eve & David Budgett (431606) or David Mayers (420716) for more information

Held in the Silence (Contemplative Prayer)

Friday mornings from 9.20-9.50.
An opportunity for quiet prayer followed by a cuppa and chat.

Compline/Night Prayer - Every Friday

Topic: Night Prayer | Time: 8.30 pm
Join Zoom Meeting; [Click here to join meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 756 7694 7476 Passcode: compline

Share your Photos with St Mike's Church Family



If you've any photos of recent significant birthdays or celebrations which you'd like to share in Church Family News on Sunday mornings, please send them via WhatsApp to this number: **+44 7579 820265**

You can, of course, also email pictures and text to stmikesnotices@gmail.com. The deadline each week is: 12 noon on Wednesdays

How to contact the office...

 01625 421984



Isobel: clergypa@maccteam.org.uk for ministry queries
(Office hours usually Mon & Wed 9.00-2.45;
Thurs 9.00-1.00 and Fri 8.30 - 1.00pm)

Elaine: bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
for bookings and building matters
(Office hours are usually Mon,
Tues & Thurs 9:30am - 1:30pm)

- Bulletin/Newsletter stmikesnotices@gmail.com
- Printing maccteamprinting@gmail.com
- Safeguarding see box below

Postal Address: The Office, St Michael's Church, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1DY



The National Safeguarding Team
Promoting a Safer Church

Safeguarding Contact Information

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the St Michael's Safeguarding Officer, Liz Bradbury:

Phone: 07435 568 729

Email: safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

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Scan this QR Code or use the contactless donation point in the Welcome Area

DONATE 



Email any prayer requests to:

prayer@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk
Your request will be circulated confidentially to a limited group of people who will pray for you.