

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH - SPECIAL EDITION

Autumn 2026

A Journey of Faith Many ways to take a step this autumn at St Michael's

A journey can take many forms.

Sometimes it means setting out on a path and walking somewhere new. Sometimes it means stopping for a while, taking a breath and finding a place of peace. Sometimes the journey is one of discovery: learning something new, asking questions and perhaps seeing familiar things differently.



For Christians, faith is a journey too. We are never quite finished learning what it means to follow Jesus. There are always new things to discover about God, about ourselves and about what it means to live as God's people.

From this autumn there will be several opportunities at St Michael's to explore that journey.

St Michael's is now officially a **Pilgrim Place** - part of a network of churches that are open, where people can come in, be quiet, say a prayer, light a candle or simply find a moment of peace. You don't have to come with all the answers - or even know exactly what you believe. Sometimes the first step on a journey is simply to stop and be still.

If this is you and your journey: **Welcome!**



pilgrim



From September, we will also be launching a number of **Pilgrim Courses**, using material produced by the Church of England.

These small groups will give us an opportunity to explore the Christian faith together, to learn, ask questions and talk honestly about what it means to follow Jesus. There will be several groups, with short courses of six sessions each, beginning from mid-September onwards. Read more about this further on.

A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

And for those who like a more literal journey, there is the **Peak Pilgrimage**: four days walking through the Peak District from Ilam to Eyam, stopping at churches along the way for reflection and prayer. You can join for one day, several days, or even simply come along for one of the reflections. Again, more details of this later in this Newsletter.

Lastly, there are also two opportunities to journey through the **Psalms** - one through study and discussion; the other through creativity. These are not part of the Pilgrim courses, but they offer another way of exploring our relationship with God.

We are not all identical (praise God!) - so there is no single right way to take the next step in faith. But we are all called to take the next step. This Autumn we're providing several opportunities for you to journey - on your own or together with others - closer to God.

Wherever you are on the journey, there's an opportunity here for you. **Read on!**

"We are all called to take the next step"



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page 2



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

From September we're beginning a concerted programme of discipleship groups, using the **Pilgrim Course** materials. Several groups will be starting from the middle of September, including one online. We're asking people to sign up to ensure we get enough resources.



These aren't intended to be academic courses, or something where you need to know lots of Bible verses or have all the answers. They are opportunities to learn

together, to ask questions, to listen to one another and to think about what following Jesus means for us in everyday life.

For some people, joining a group like this will be a natural next step in faith. For others, it may be the first time they have done anything like it. I encourage you to take this step.

Pilgrim comprises two stages: the **Follow stage** (for those very new to faith, want a refresher, or want to help others with their journey), and the **Grow stage** (for those who want to go deeper).

Each stage contains four short six-session courses which focus on a major theme of the Christian life (eg. *What do Christians believe? How do Christians know and worship God? What is the Christian vision for the world?*)

These are explored by reflecting together on Christianity's central texts (such as the Lord's Prayer, the Commandments, & the Beatitudes).

No prior knowledge is required, but a willingness to listen to God and one another is!

What does the course involve?

The heart of each session is an opportunity to reflect on a reading from the Bible, plus a short article from a contemporary Christian writer. Questions for discussion, a time of prayer and a 'sending out' section round off the time.

To launch **Pilgrim**, we'll be using the first units of each stage: 'Turning to Christ' (based on responses used at baptism) and 'The Creeds' - the agreed statements of the Christian Faith.



left:

The first unit of the **Follow** stage considers the questions asked at a baptism service.



right:

The first unit of the **Grow** stage explores the Christian Creeds.

Since each unit stands alone, there's no requirement to do them all. But I hope you will!

When are the sessions?

We currently have the following courses confirmed. Because most are in people's homes there is limited capacity, so book soon!

Follow stage - unit 1 'Turning to Christ'

- 7.30pm Monday evenings at Mike & Tina's home, starting Monday 14th September
- 11.30am Thursday mornings, led by Barbara in the Youth Centre, starting 17th September
- 7pm Sunday evenings, online course, led by Martin, starting 20th September

Grow stage - unit 5 'The Creeds'

- 7.30pm Monday evenings at Sallie & Martin's home, starting Monday 28th Sept
- Thursday mornings, Gordon & Vicky's homegroup, starting 10th September

plus ... more groups still being arranged



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Putting Pilgrimage into Practice

What does it mean to go on pilgrimage?



People often think it means travelling to a special holy place. But pilgrimage can also be much simpler: walking together, talking together, noticing the landscape around us, making time to think and pray, and allowing the journey itself to become part of our relationship with God.

Over four days in September, a group from St Michael's will be doing exactly that, repeating a route we walked in 2018: the **Peak Pilgrimage**, from Ilam to Eyam (the plague village).

The first day, Fri 11th Sept, will be from Holy Cross Church, Ilam to St Giles, Hartington. The second day, Sat 12th, will be from Hartington to St Leonard's, Monyash. The third & fourth days will be the following weekend, Fri 18th, from Monyash to St Peter's, Edensor, and the final stage on Sat 19th from Edensor to St Lawrence's, Eyam.

Stops for tea & cake will be planned, as well as churches, and each day will end with a reflection.

If you plan to join this year's **Peak Pilgrimage** for one or more of the days, please could you sign up on the list at the back of church and also indicate if you are able to car share. *[We'll leave some cars at the finish of each day to ferry drivers back to the start.]* This is not an absolute commitment but will give us a better idea of numbers. Many thanks.



Left:
Here we are above Chatsworth just over 8 years ago.

We hope that as many people as possible will join us, at least for some of the way.

Indeed, you are very welcome to join us for just the reflection at the end of the day, followed by tea and cake, of course.

For more info, please chat to Paul Spedding, Pete Munro, Taffy Davies or Paul Simms.

Finding our Voice in the Psalms

Alongside the Pilgrim courses and the Peak Pilgrimage, there will be two opportunities to spend some time with one of the Bible's most remarkable books: **the Psalms**.

Sometimes called 'the hymnbook of Jesus', this collection of 150 songs is used by Jewish people in worship. There is no doubt that Jesus would have known most by heart, just as some of us know by heart many of the hymns we use in worship.

It has been said that, while much of scripture speaks **to** us, the Psalms speak **for** us, and offer a very personal relationship with God.

A study/discussion group will meet fortnightly on Thursday evenings, at the home of Lynne & Paul, probably beginning 17th Sept, for about 6-7 sessions. A sign-up sheet is at the back of church.

Excitingly, this group may also link with a creative/artistic venture being led by Kirsty and Catherine, where we will explore what it means to **Create through the Psalms** and connect with God in new ways — through your hands, your words, and your actions.

For one psalm each month, a weekly prompt will be shared in the newsletter to help you create a response in whatever way speaks to you.

Anyone can take part - you don't have to be "artistic". This isn't about producing something good enough to display. It's about finding a different way to listen, respond and connect with God.

It's possible to engage in both the study group and this activity, letting them complement one another.

Create through the Psalms will begin the second week of September.

Lots of opportunities this Autumn. Do sign up!



Sunday Services

Church Family Worship - 10:00am

it's the Church family gathering together!

1st & 3rd Sundays in the month - Holy Communion
other Sundays - Service of the Word

Choral Evensong - 6:30pm

2nd Sunday of each month only

Words from the Book of Common Prayer
and music in the Anglican choral tradition.

PLUS

Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark 3:00pm on Sunday 6th September

Come and celebrate with those who've decided
to taking this step in their Christian journey

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

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, 10:30am in the
Savage Chapel - lasting 30-40 minutes.

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
20th Aug, 3rd & 17th Sept: Morning Prayer
27th Aug, 10th & 24th Sept: Holy Communion

Thursday Homegroup

Meeting for Bible study and prayer
morning and evening groups
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...



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Thurs & Fri 9.00-1.00.

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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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