

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

23rd August 2026

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



As mentioned by Martin in last weeks special edition newsletter, this autumn, from we have a number of opportunities to take the next step in our journey of faith – whether that means exploring faith for the first time, deepening our understanding of God, spending time in prayer and reflection, or simply journeying alongside others.

Pilgrim Courses

From September, we will be offering a number of Pilgrim Courses, using material produced by the Church of England. These small groups are a chance to explore the Christian faith together – to learn, ask questions, share our experiences and talk honestly about what it means to follow Jesus.



Each course consists of six sessions. At the heart of each session is an opportunity to reflect on a Bible reading alongside a short article from a contemporary Christian writer. This is followed by questions for discussion, a time of prayer and a 'sending out' – helping us to consider how what we have explored might shape our lives.

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 .

There is a sign up board in the welcome area of church, with information leaflets to take away. Do reach out as always if you have any questions about the courses.

A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

"We are all called to take the next step."



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Peak Pilgrimage

In September, St Michael's will once again walk the Peak Pilgrimage, following our 2018 route from Ilam to Eyam over four days:

Fri 11 Sept: Ilam–Hartington, Sat 12 Sept: Hartington–Monyash

Fri 18 Sept: Monyash–Edensor, Sat 19 Sept: Edensor–Eyam



The pilgrimage is about walking together, enjoying the countryside, making time for prayer and reflection – with churches, tea and cake along the way!

If you'd like to join for one or more days, please sign up at the back of church and indicate if you can car share. For more info, please chat to Paul Spedding, Pete Munro, Taffy Davies or Paul Simms.



Eco-Tip:

🌱 This week's theme from the St Michaels Eco team is about getting ready for the new waste collection system.



In the next few weeks - if you live in a house, flats or shared properties might have different systems - you will be receiving a food caddy.

Then a few weeks after this (maybe not until October, dates are still uncertain) your waste will be collected on 4 different schedules!

● Weekly - food caddy - for all food waste

🌱 Fortnightly - green bin - for garden and food waste (only for those who have paid for their green bin!)

🌱 Fortnightly - grey bin - for all clean, dry recyclable waste

♻️ Every 3 weeks - black bin - for waste that cannot go in your other bins.

Simple! But if you want to know more click on <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/bins/changes-to-waste-and-recycling-collections.aspx>

Re-use and recycle stall - next sunday!

Sunday 30th August **tearfund**

The SA&WW team is organising a fundraising sale in support of Tearfund. They are looking for donations of good-quality:

- Bric-a-brac
- Plants
- Books
- Children's toys
- No clothing!



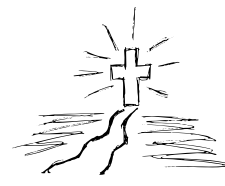
If you have any items you would like to donate, **please bring them in by Saturday 29th August.** Drop off down the left hand side of the Nave (near noticeboards) from Monday 24th August.

Thank you for your generosity and support.
Martin Bancroft, Ann Kite, Ann Radmall, Lynne Spedding.

For your prayers:



Norma
Mick
George



Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell at this time. May they know God's comfort, strength and healing, and may they feel surrounded by His love and the prayers of our church family.



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Due to Elaine's forthcoming retirement there is an opportunity for someone to join the office team in the role of **Buildings and Bookings Coordinator**.

The role is **15 hours per week**.

Key aspects of the job include:

- Managing bookings of our church building, ensuring that activities coordinate and hirers feel welcome.
- Invoicing external users and ensuring compliance with Performing Rights Society and events licences
- Overseeing routine maintenance contracts, supplies and minor repairs.
- Ensuring adherence to safety requirements.
- (and quite a lot more!)

If you would like to know more, please contact Rachel (churchwarden) for a job description and application form, via warden@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk or via the church office.

..and if you know anyone else who might be interested, please encourage them to get in touch.

Closing date: Monday 31st August, 5pm.



Heritage Open Day

Saturday 19th September



As usual we expect to have many extra visitors on this day, when heritage sites and activities are open all around the country. There will be plenty going on at St Michael's, especially linking in with Macclesfield Textile Week (run by the Silk Museum).

We will show our rarely-seen altar frontals, including one made by the renowned Leek Embroidery School, and Sunday School banners. A talk at the museum will highlight our mediaeval heritage – suggesting people visit.

The bellringers will give a demonstration

AND there will be a zipwire for teddies (and cuddly friends) from the tower...



We need YOU to help by being around in church to welcome visitors, answering questions (or directing towards someone else if you can't).

We know that there are other church-related activities going on on that day, so if you aren't involved in one of those, PLEASE consider if you could offer a couple of hours, and let Rachel know (or via the office). Thank you!!

Find out more: www.heritageopendays.org.uk

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In partnership with  National Trust

 PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

 EARTH TRUST



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Our raised beds are producing fruit!

These figs were picked last week and enjoyed by some of our café visitors.



They were grown on the raised beds near the Youth Centre, which are carefully tended by Anthony. If you haven't seen them, pop round the corner and have a look sometime. One has a selection of edibles, and the other has sensory planting.



BABYSALMESANG

Weekly, starting back Friday 4th Sept, 10.30-11.30 on the first floor of St Michaels.



A moment to slow down, share a little musical magic and appreciate God's goodness with your baby. For babies up to 1 years. Ask the church office for more info. All welcome!

Foodie FRIDAY

Pay as you feel, 3 course meals. Arrive 6pm, seated for 6:30pm. Cash & card payments accepted. Dietary requirements catered for!

All welcome!

First Friday of the month
Friday 4th September.

Angel
at my Table

Booking is required via the Church office
01625 421 984

Open The Book Taster Morning

Could you be a Storyteller in primary schools?

Could you be a Storyteller?

Find out how you can bring Bible stories to life in Macclesfield primary schools.



OPEN THE BOOK TASTER MORNING

Thursday 17th September

9:30AM-12:30

All Saints Church,
Macclesfield, SK11 8EL

Contact Dot or Cynthia to book &
find out more:

dotphillips@outlook.com
cynthia.crewe@virginmedia.com

A free, fun,
friendly & interactive
session!

Open the Book:
Part of the Bible Society

 biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book

Preparing For New Beginnings ... Everything Must Go!

The Hope Centre will be holding a final sale of all their current stock. This will include all of Bibles, Christian cards and a range of faith-based gifts for all seasons and occasions.



This will include some early deals for Christmas and Easter cards, so grab a bargain while you can. They will be holding two sales on the 28th and 29th of August from 10 am - 3 pm.

Please share with friends about this opportunity and encourage them to pop along.



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Season of Creation 2026

Once again this year there is an exciting programme of events organised across our local churches through Hope in NEC. It starts on 1st September and finishes on October 4th.

The opening service is on **Tuesday 1st September** at 6:30pm at Riverside Park, to be led by Rev Simon Bessant.

Pick up a paper copy of the calendar in the welcome area of church. Here is the online version, or scan the QR code on the poster below.
<https://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation>

Take a look, see what events interest you, and get them in your diary before you forget! Everyone is welcome.

 **HOPE** IN NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Season of Creation

1 Sep - 4 Oct 2026

An eco festival of events

Join the Churches of North East Cheshire as we come together to cherish and protect the world around us.

Scan to discover events, activities and ways to get involved.



**BE TRANSFORMED
STEP IN DEEPER
RENEW CREATION**



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

e: justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com
w: [stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation](https://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation)



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Key Events

Tuesday 1st September 6.30pm

Prayer / opening service surrounded by nature at Riverside Park, SK10 2SL.

Wednesday 2nd (10:30am) & Thursday 3rd September (7pm)

Creation Care Bible study groups begin - both in the chapel at East Cheshire Hospice, SK10 3DR.

Friday 11th September 7:30pm

People's Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis. Film followed by discussion. All welcome. St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY.

Tuesday 15th September 7.45pm

Workshop: 'Calling a wounded earth home'
Exploring what kind of people we might need to become to live life in it's fullness in a time of climate breakdown. St Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Rd, SK11 8DJ.

Friday 18th September 5.00pm—9:00pm

Feeding bellies not bins!
Cooking with surplus food. Come along to prepare, cook and eat a shared meal made from surplus food. Booking preferred: 01625 421 984. St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY.

Wednesday 23rd September 9:15am—2:30pm

Laudato Si Centre
Visit to the Diocese of Salford's eco hub for environmental learning, wellbeing, and spirituality with a walled vegetable garden and woodlands. Transport provided, see leaflet/scan QR code.



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Other Town Centre Events



☀️ World Harvest Festival ☀️

Saturday 10th October | From 2pm

📍 Macclesfield United Reformed Church
Everyone is warmly welcome to come along and enjoy the festival – you don't need to perform to take part! Best of all, the event is completely free.

🍷 Food is kindly being provided by the Sutton Community Fridge.

❤️ Support the Festival: Financial donations are greatly needed to help keep the festival completely free of charge for participating families. GoFundMe:

<https://gofund.me/5905d5124>

✉️ Contact: Asiah Cullen,
asia.cullen@btinternet.com

Also, the third family African workshop takes place on **Tuesday 1st September** at St Peter's Church at 4pm. Music, dance, stories & culture. Celebrating Zulu, Kenyan and Nigerian traditions. Everyone welcome!

Treacle Market – Sunday 27 September, 10am–3.30pm

As always, the monthly Treacle Market is on in the Market Place, with stalls, food, music and local makers. If you're in town, why not pop into St Michael's while you're here? Our doors are always open for a moment of peace, prayer or simply a look around.

Remembering Gaza

A Silent vigil

Saturday 29th August
12 noon – 12.30pm

Outside Macclesfield Town Hall
A silent vigil will be held calling for:

- An end to illegal settlements
- An end to oppression in Gaza and the West Bank
- The UK Government to cease arms sales to Israel
- Broad sanctions to be imposed on Israel

Please note:

This is a silent vigil – there will be no chanting, banners or flags. Please do not bring your own placards; placards will be provided by the organisers.

The vigil is organised by Global Justice Now (Macclesfield Group) and welcomes anyone who shares its aims and ethos.

Free family activities

For families, there are some particularly good options during **Textile Week**:

Saturday 19 September – Family Rag Rug Workshop, Silk Museum, 10.30am–1.30pm, free drop-in.

Saturday 26 September – Children's Textile Crafts, Market Hall, 1–3pm, free drop-in.

Saturday 26 September – Wonderful Weaving, Silk Museum, 3.30–4.30pm, free drop-in.

Saturday 26 September – Make a Panda! Macclesfield Community ArtSpace, 6–8pm, free but booking required.

www.thesilkmuseum.co.uk



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Sunday 23rd August

10:00am: The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Theme: Empowered

Leader: Mike Strutt

Speaker: Revd Martin Stephens

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

27th August: Midweek Communion Service

3rd September: Midweek Morning prayer

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

Choral Evensong

Usually **2nd Sunday of each month, 6:30pm**

There is no Evensong in **August**.

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



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 & Fri 9.00-1.00.

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

Donating to St Michael's is easy!

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

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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.