

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

26th July 2026



The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Praying for St Michael's



As mentioned earlier this month, I'm hoping that we can increase the level of corporate prayer in and for St Michael's. But what do we pray for?

There are many ways of praying of course. *Last Sunday Vivien used a model of praying using the hand as a simple basis of who to pray for (watch at <https://youtu.be/OBv88zJWxeM?t=1010>).*

The image of the hand is explained as follows, starting with the thumb - pray for our families & friends; our teachers & leaders; our communities & national leaders; those who are sick or vulnerable; and finally ourselves.

As we pray through each category let's try to add in our church's ministry and those we reach out to. And let's not forget that our prayers are important.

Mark

Revd Martin Stephens

Pilgrim



Music at Mikes



Saturday 25th July at 1:15pm is the last of our Music @ Mikes concerts this summer - Simon Conning will be here playing some piano pieces!



The autumn term 2026 programme will be out over the coming weeks so you can plan and get the dates in your diary!

Food Drop-Off

foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

Just a reminder that Vicky Darlington can take donations for the Food Drop-off event. The final collection at church will be **Sunday 26th July**. Thank you for your support.

Eco tip



Remember to visit the **Greener Macc stall** in the churchyard at Treacle Market on Sunday; find out about all the amazing work being done across our town to make Macclesfield a better and more sustainable place to live.



Eco-group:

The next Eco Group meeting will be held on **Monday 27th July at 7.30pm** in the Welcome Area of St Michael's. Everyone is warmly welcome. Come along to learn more about our efforts to care for God's creation, explore practical ways we can make a difference, and join us in prayer as we seek to be faithful stewards of the world God has entrusted to us.



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Inspiration



I've not a care in the world on this bright sunny day.
The clouds are behind me, all drifting away.
It's best to forget all the storms of the past
And hope that this tranquil, bright period will last.
Whether we know it, or choose to ignore
The mood of the weather, it makes us explore,
In its own secret way, our inner most thoughts
On a cold gloomy day. We wrap up and hide
from its fierce, raging blasts, but today is the day
when old shadows are cast.
So, horrah for the sun! God's gift to our earth.
Please stay, don't retreat, you inspirer of verse.

Dorothy Bentley Smith

A Letter Worth Sharing

To mark Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, Mark Langham sent him a birthday card, never expecting anything in return.



To his delight, he later received the letter below of thanks from Sir David's daughter on behalf of the family.

Dear Mr Langham

Thank you for your birthday greeting. We have been completely inundated by birthday mail, and it is taking a huge amount of time to work through it all – my sincere apologies.

It is most generous of you to enclose a cheque & gift aid form for F&F, which I am forwarding to them now.

Yours sincerely

Re-use and recycle stall Sunday 30th August

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!

tearfund

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.



New vicar at All Saints

Reverend Jeremy Bentliff is to be appointed Team Vicar for Macclesfield Team Ministry with specific responsibility for **All Saints, Macclesfield**.

Jeremy is currently incumbent at Hyde St. George with St Thomas and will be inducted into this new role at All Saints at **7pm on the 2nd September** by Bishop Sam.

Confirmation Service

Sunday 6th September, 3pm



Confirmation is a special opportunity to take the next step in your Christian journey and publicly affirm your faith. Speak to a member of the Ministry Team.



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An Evening on Judaism

On Monday about 15 of us met with Andrew from the Menorah Synagogue in Wythenshawe (with whom we have links) to chat about Judaism generally, and particularly about the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot).

A group from St Mike's will be attending their Sukkot (Harvest Festival) on **26th September**, so Andrew told us what to expect. Apparently one aspect of the service is when branches are tied together from four different plants:

A palm frond
Myrtle branches
Willow branches
A citron



One which tastes good, one which smells good, one which neither tastes nor smells and one which both tastes and smells good. This is to signify that the **community is made up of the holy, the practical, those who are both holy and practical and those who are neither holy nor practical (but all are bound together)**. We quite liked that idea! He also explained the symbolic construction of the **'tabernacle'** or temporary dwelling from branches, remembering the temporary accommodation the Israelites had during the Exodus.

Andrew outlined the differences between Menorah (a Reform Synagogue) and Orthodox Synagogues: their respective belief/practices. He also quoted how the three great monotheistic religions have been summed up each with one word: Islam – submission; Christianity – love; Judaism – justice (meaning social justice). We had quite a long chat about this!



When asked about the Messiah, Andrew said that his synagogue would probably equate references to the Messiah in scripture as references to the 'Messianic Age' (the Kingdom of God) rather than with the arrival of an individual Messiah, although Orthodox Jews would believe the latter (and are presumably still waiting).

It was a really interesting evening, covering a lot of ground, and ending with the inevitable tea and cake!

Lynne



People's Emergency Briefing film & discussion

Friday 11th September
7.30pm - 10pm
at St Mikes



As part of Season of Creation, we are hosting a film and discussion evening.

More info here: <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>. No booking required.

Vision Zone 2026 - Coming to our church

Thursday 10th September, 11am-2pm

Free to attend, designed for anyone living with sight loss, as well as their families and carers. For more information, see the leaflet attached.

Vision Zone 2026



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Market Place, SK10 1DY

Sunday 26th July

10:00am: The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Reading: Acts 16:25-34

Theme: People changed by God:
The Philippian Jailer

Leader: Lynne Spedding
Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

Speaker: Martin Bancroft
Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

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

30th July: Midweek Holy Communion

6th August: 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 & 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.