

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

27th September 2026



The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.



Create Through the Psalms

September's Art Group

Week 3 – Chaff and Fruit

Welcome to your invitation to engage with Scripture in a new and beautiful way.

Join us for this 3-week series, Rooted: A journey to create through Psalm 1.

Read through this week's Scripture. Take a moment to sit with the passage. Prepare your heart to engage with God creatively.

Psalm 1: 4-6

The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away ... for the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous.

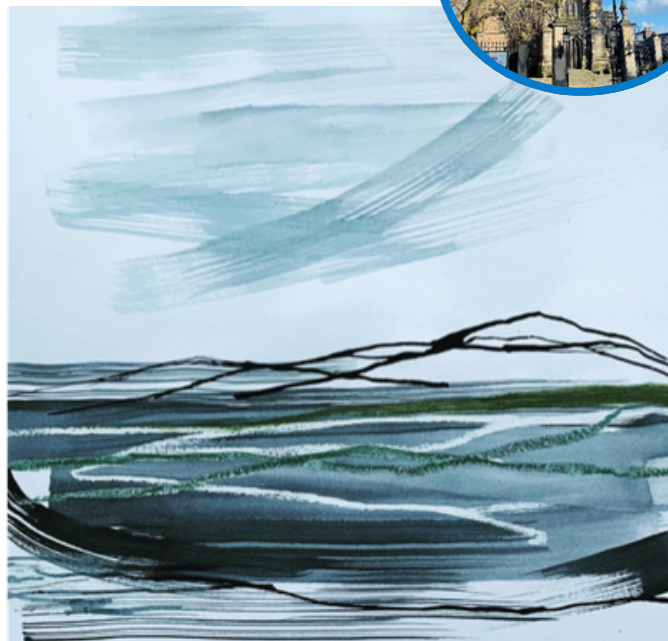
WITH YOUR HANDS

Choose two mediums (pencil, coloured pencil, charcoal, paint, biro, felt tips, crayon, pastels, collage, etc.) and capture weight and lightness in one piece.

WITH YOUR WORDS

What are you holding onto that the wind could take? Try one:

- Write a reflection on something you've let go of and what remained
- Do a word study on "chaff" - what it was, how it was separated from grain, why the image works
- Write a poem contrasting what scatters and what stays



WITH YOUR ACTIONS

Let go of one thing this week that has no root - and notice what's left standing. Try one:

- Give away something you've been holding onto unnecessarily
- Take a prayer walk to release worry
- Host a small gathering to share what's been "chaff" this season and what's proven solid

We'd love to see what you create! Please email stmikesnotices@gmail.com or WhatsApp +447579820265 so we can share your artwork or reflections with the church community.

Kirsty

A few submissions so far...



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Revd Martin speaks about Remembering, celebrating and looking forward

Anniversaries are interesting things. They are occasions for remembering, celebrating and looking forward. Some are deeply personal; others belong to a whole community.

It's just over a decade since Catherine and I moved to Macclesfield. Last week was the actual anniversary of my induction and installation as Rector.

It's a date and occasion I remember very clearly:

- a coachload of church members from Stoke and several members of my family (including both my parents) were present;
- the hymns included one of my all-time favourites, 'In Christ alone';
- the Bible reading (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) was read by my friend from theological college, Brian;
- the choir sang 'Lead me Lord' by SS Wesley; and (perhaps most memorably for other people)
- the service was led by Bishop Willie – who ended the service by saying we should sing the National Anthem! And Karen dutifully and deftly struck up with the right chord on the organ!

I am under no illusion though that 16 September 2016 should be a date lodged in anyone else's calendar. Some of you didn't worship at St Michael's then, or live in Macclesfield, or were yet born! However, as I recall that time, I remember something of what it felt like to begin a new chapter of life and ministry in this town.

And there's another anniversary on the horizon which definitely belongs to the whole community.



In 2028, it will be 750 years since St Michael's Church was founded. The present building is not, of course, the one that stood here in 1278. But the Christian community gathered on this site has a remarkable story stretching back $\frac{3}{4}$ of a millennium!

So how should we mark seven and a half centuries of St Michael's Church*?

I sincerely trust it will be more than simply looking backwards. This anniversary is an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those who laid the foundations of our church community; to recognise and honour the legacy left by our predecessors; to celebrate what St Michael's means to Macclesfield today; and, most importantly for me, to ask what kind of church we want St Michael's to be for Macclesfield and for succeeding generations. Plenty to think about!

But, for now, please could you let Isobel in the Church Office know your hopes or ideas for meaningful ways of marking the anniversary? And, really helpfully, we'd be pleased to gather a group of interested people who would enjoy being part of the conversation and helping to shape our celebrations. If you'd like to be involved, please do let Isobel know – it would be wonderful to have as many different ideas, perspectives and hopes around the table as possible.

(* when founded in 1278, the church was known as All Saints or All Hallows)



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Sunday 4th October

Celebrating our food – a harvest thanksgiving with a difference.

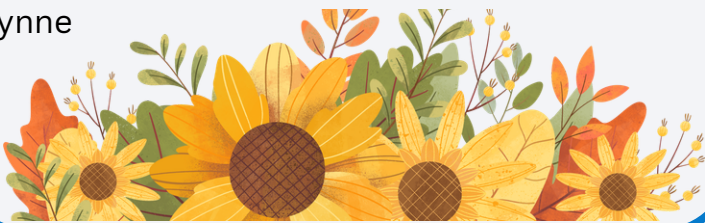


This year we are giving thanks for 'bread', both physical and spiritual, and have decided not to request the usual harvest gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs. Instead we are inviting all who come along to bring a monetary offering which will be collected during the service, then sent to a charity which works to reduce food poverty in the UK. Cash or a cheque would be fine, or you could do a bank transfer to the church account with the heading 'Harvest' (bank details: **Sort Code: 16 24 32 and Account number: 12923915**)

We understand that some of you will miss the usual bringing in of Harvest gifts but there are good reasons for the change this year – one being that our obvious recipients last year (the local Foodbank) didn't want actual food as they receive so much at this time. Fortunately, we were able to donate our offerings to a Ukrainian charity, but finding recipients isn't as easy as one might think!

We will still have a harvest theme and sing traditional harvest songs, but we would be really grateful if you could remember to bring some money or a cheque to the service (I know many of you no longer carry cash!) so that we can support a charity which knows how to use the money most appropriately. You might like to pop your donation in an envelope.

Many thanks
Lynne



Wonderful Church Feedback

I received an email recently, entitled 'Feedback on my visit to St Michael's'.

I'm somewhat perturbed that I expected some criticism or complaint. Steeling myself for what was to come, I was absolutely delighted to read the following:

"I had the pleasure of visiting St Michael's Church earlier today. For some years now I've been visiting churches featured in Simon Jenkins' book 'England's Thousand Best Churches'. Having visited around a third of those listed, this week I'm focusing on Cheshire.

I have not previously written to the priest of the churches I've visited, but in addition to the inherent interest of your church's features and history, my visit today was truly exceptional for two reasons: firstly, simply the best on-line church guide I've seen, and secondly the exceptional warmth of the engaging welcome from the person I spoke to. I was not only impressed by their fascinating information about the church's recent history and development but also their wonderfully inspiring explanation of the church's role and purpose. What a great asset to your congregation!"

You'll have seen emails and heard requests from Rachel, who heads up our Open Church Team, asking for help with stewarding St Michael's for special events or more generally. Thank you to everyone who greets our visitors, welcomes them into our beloved building, and extends the love of God in doing so. Thank you!

Revd Martin



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Pilgrimage '26



Our 2026 Peak Pilgrimage finished at St Lawrence's Church, Eyam, last Saturday. A total of 24 pilgrims had taken part and 7 of these had walked all 39 miles and climbed all 2700 feet from Ilam via Hartington, Monyash and Edensor over four days. We had a brief service in the final church at the end of each day's walking with a reflection by a different pilgrim each day. The weather was kind and we all had a very companionable journey. The Four Musketeers will be meeting soon to review the lessons learned from Pilgrimage '26 and begin mulling over ideas for a residential pilgrimage in 2027.

Thank you for all the efforts that went into Heritage open day last Saturday!



Music@Mike's



Friday 2nd October at 1.15pm the distinguished Kell Wind Trio will be performing pieces by Haydn, Hahn, Kreisler, Norris, Hallam, Arnold and Wood.



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Church Office News – Farewell and welcome!

Elaine Collinson has managed our church bookings, and overseen routine maintenance, for almost 5 years.

She has moved chairs and tables innumerable times, and juggled conflicting bookings to ensure that training courses and concert performers (and attendees) have the facilities they need and want to come back.

This has helped to make St Michael's Church Building the welcoming place it is (the people are the other part of that – and that is everyone!).

Elaine is now moving on to a well-deserved retirement; we wish her a happy and more restful future and offer our very grateful thanks for everything she has done.



“It's the coffee and congregation that keeps me going!” Thank you all for your well wishes!
Elaine

THANK
YOU!



WELCOME

We are delighted that Phoebe Sym is joining us in the office as the new **Bookings and Buildings Assistant**.

Phoebe comes to us from Northcoders PLC, and is looking forward to working part-time so that she can support her partner in his business.

Phoebe will join us on Monday 28th September, and will work with Elaine for a couple of days. Please welcome Phoebe when you are passing, but it would be really helpful if you could leave that until after Elaine has left (29th September) so that they can make best use of those two days!

Just a reminder about our office roles:



Isobel

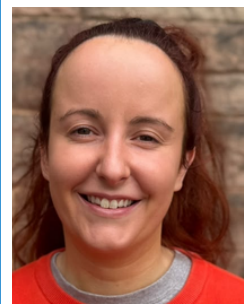
For ministry matters, Martin's diary contact **Isobel**.

Mon & Weds = 9am-3pm

Thurs & Fri = 9am-1pm.

Email:

clergypa@maccteam.org.uk



Phoebe

For availability of space in the church building, and maintenance issues, contact Phoebe.

Mon, Tues & Thurs = 9:30am-1:30pm

Email:

bookings@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Church Flowers

The flowers on the Chancel Table have been graciously given by Audrey and Helen Evans in loving memory of their dearest Jane, so sadly missed.



Eco Tip



This advice seems too obvious, but it's amazing how many people seem to be unaware! Only boil as much water in the kettle as you need, and turn lights off when you leave a room. Turn radiators down, and fit draft excluders round drafty doors.

Season of Creation: Week 5 highlights



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

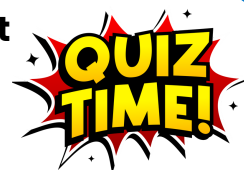
- **Creation Walk on Friday 25th starting at 5.00pm** at St. John's Church, Earlsway for a walk of just under 4 miles to some of the town churches
- **Middlewood Way Walk on Saturday 26th starting at 2.00pm** at Adlington Road Car Park, Bollington SK10 5JT for a walk of 5.5 miles, with refreshments before returning along the canal.
- **Scoop and Scales Book Club on Tuesday 29th at 7.30pm** in the Prince of Wales Pub, Roe Street to consider "Is a River Alive?" by Robert MacFarlane.
- **Apple Pressing on 1st October from 4.00 - 7.00pm**, drop in at Scoop and Scales to press apples and enjoy some juice.
- **Creation Caneteen on Friday 2nd October at 6.00pm**, if you can bring along a meal to add to the sharing feast please book a place at 01625 241984 and let David Mayers know what you will be bringing!
- **Prayer and Praise Service** to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis and the 800th Anniversary of his death on **Sunday 4th October at 4.00pm in St. Michael's Church.**

Indian Banquetsave the date!



On the 15th November join us for an evening of delicious food and entertainment! Soft drinks provided, please bring any alcoholic drinks. Proceeds to the St Michaels Building Fund. Adults £22, Under 11's £12, Family £60.

NEXT WEEK! Quiz night at Button Warehouse



- Monday, September 28
- 7:00 PM 9:30 PM
- The Button House, 44-48 Chestergate

Come along to the Quiz night in aid of St Mikes!

Pre booked tables only. Max 6 per team.

Min £3pp. To reserve a table email info@thebuttonwarehouse.co.uk.

Need a new carpet?



We are going to dispose of the brick-red carpet that we used to have in the chancel when it was used by a toddler group and the storytelling service. The carpet is 3.4m x 5.95m. It is hardly worn but could do with a clean. If you, or anyone you know, would like to make an offer for it, please contact Rachel either directly or via the office. If not claimed within the next few weeks we will advertise it more widely.

Concert at St Mikes

"Manchester Chamber Choir are delighted to present a programme of truly beautiful music on the themes of loss, hope, and redemption. The centrepiece is Howells' exquisite Requiem, which uses texts from Psalms 23 and 121.

It is on Friday 9th October in St Michaels. Flyer at the back of church.



REMEMBERING GAZA

A Silent Vigil outside Macclesfield Town Hall
12noon – 12.30 pm Saturday 26th September



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Sunday 27th September 2026

Church Family Worship

Theme: Moses the middleman

10:00am: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Reading: Exodus 17.1-7

Leader: Revd Canon Vivien Gisby

Speaker: Mike Strutt

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

1st October: Morning Prayer

8th October: Midweek Communion Service

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

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 9.00-15:00; Thurs & Fri 9.00-1.00.

Phoebe: 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 is the safeguarding officer:**

Phone: 07435 568 729

Email: safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

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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.