

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

15th March 2026



Last Saturday, 37 people from across the whole of church life at St Michael's joined together for

'Salt and Light Renewed'

- a full day to review our church's strategic priorities 6 years on from our last Vision Day just before Covid.

We were really blessed to have Rebecca and Jon from the Diocese work with us to plan and then facilitate the day. Helping us identify things to celebrate, as well as recognise areas where we 'could do better', Rebecca and Jon got everyone engaged in discussion, listening to one other, and being creative together.

Although it was really great to have such involvement from everyone, for me, an especial highlight of the day were Bishop Sam's 3 contributions by video.

He initially got us to think about the importance for St Michael's of Presence, People and Possibilities.



Sam then drew on his experience of leading a major Town Centre Church into the area of the *Arts, Partnerships, and Signposting people to something else we offer.*

Finally Sam spoke quite openly about what he wished he'd focused on more: in essence *Community and Discipleship.*

During the afternoon session we then sought to discern our next priorities for the future.



Thank you to everyone who came, to those who contributed beforehand by completing a form for it. Also to Catherine & Judith for the morning refreshments, and to Ali & the Angel at my Table team for the 'soup-erb' lunch,

Once we receive the collated output of the day from Jon & Rebecca, a small group of us will process it all and, together with the Church Council, determine what should then be our next priorities, both short- and medium-term.

Although it may not be anywhere near finalised, I plan to say more at our annual meeting in April.

Mark

Riding Lights Passion Play

131 people attended the performance at St. Michael's last Thursday of the new passion play *Night Falls*; and were entertained, challenged and moved by an amazing performance.



The audience was asked to consider, reconsider and reflect on the events and ideas of the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion - through the fictional - but very believable - experiences of Lazarus and Jairus' daughter; a glimpse into the pain, struggle and hope found at the heart of the Biblical account.

If you'd like to experience more of Riding Lights' work download *The Passion* - a free dramatised series taking you to the heart of Easter. Eight stories. eight voices, eight days journey to the cross

[https://www.ridinglights.org/thepassion.](https://www.ridinglights.org/thepassion)

Continues over the page...



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Riding Lights....sad news....

We were saddened to hear that the Riding Lights vehicle and kit were taken by thieves while parked in Leeds on Monday evening. The van housed the entirety of their current theatre tour of Night Falls.....set, costumes, lights and sound.

Please pray for them. Following this terrible incident, Riding Lights are appealing for donations so that the show can go on following the theft.

More info here:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz6e4gx19p4o>

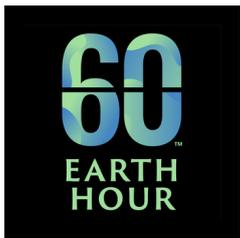
Church Flowers

The flowers in the worship area have been donated by Vicky Darlington in loving memory of her mum and dad.



Join us for Earth Hour

On **Saturday 28th March** we are all encouraged to **Give an Hour For the Earth**; to make an impact by doing something positive - anything - for the earth.



In the past we have sat in darkness for an hour from 8.30pm with a candle burning in the window, without any devices - you could you do it again?

But working with the Eco-church team from Holy Trinity Hurdsfield we have come up with a different idea for this year....a **Riverside Nature walk!**



Riverside Nature Walk

Saturday 28th March at 2.30pm. Riverside Park car park (just off Beech Lane, SK10 2SL)

A guided walk around Bluebell Meadow. Learn more about the wildlife and how the ranger is managing it. 1.7 miles (slow pace). Lots of steps and uneven paths. Suitable for people of average fitness including children. Wear suitable clothing and footwear .

60 to 75 minutes for the event. Please book....limited places!

Booking will be open from 10am Friday 13th March at

<https://holytrinityhurdsfield.churchsuite.com/events/t7segbns> - If you can't book online please speak to Isobel in the office or David Mayers.

Music @ Mikes 1.15pm

Angel at my Table café will be open for light refreshments.

Free entry but donations are invited for the East Cheshire Hospice and St Michael's Church, jointly.

Friday 13th March
Hyuk Namkoon
Playing pieces by Bach, Mozart and Schubert.



Friday 20th March
Lin Xu-Zhang
London-based Australian pianist



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Maundy Thursday Chrism service Chester Cathedral 2nd April at 11:00am

At this special service we remember Christ's servant ministry. All licensed ministers (clergy & LLMs) are invited to renew their commitment to shared ministry of serving the needs of others in love as Jesus first loved us. However anyone can attend, and a group from St Michael's usually does. If you would like to go, please sign up in Church. And speak to Martin if you can offer lifts, etc. People tend to stay in Chester for shopping or lunch afterwards.

Don't forget, that evening, we'll be holding our own Agape Meal with (optional) Washing of Feet in the Savage Chapel (7.00pm) – a time of thoughtful reflection, music and symbolic action to lead us into Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday Service:

Thursday 2nd April, Savage Chapel of St Michael's, 7pm. 'The night before he died' Sharing an Agape Meal with (optional) foot washing. A service of readings, music and silence.

Good Friday Service of Contemplation:

Readings, music, poetry and silence
Friday 3rd April. 2pm - 4pm in 4 x 25 minute sessions. Please leave or arrive at any changeover time: (2.00); 2.25; 2.55; 3.25

The Third Sunday of Lent

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us
and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Message from Isobel - If you are wondering where I've been the last few days...we took a trip to Lisbon...what a wonderful city! The Lisbon Cathedral, known locally as the **Sé de Lisboa**, is the oldest and most important church in Lisbon, founded in 1147. Located in the historic Alfama district, this Romanesque and Gothic fortress-like structure houses a treasury of relics, a cloister, and the main nave. Here are some photos to share!



It features a prominent, rose window located in the upper choir which depicts Jesus Christ and his 12 disciples.

Isobel

A reminder of the study groups during Lent

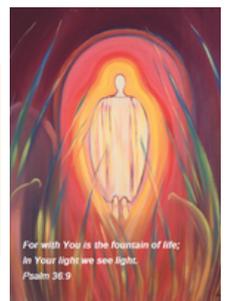
Monday evenings at 7.30pm
Tuesday mornings at 10.15am
Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm
Thursday mornings at 11.15am

All welcome to come along, contact the church office for more information.



Service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness

The next Healing Service is on:
Friday 20th March 11.00am in the Savage Chapel The service will last approximately 30 minutes
All are welcome.



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Sunday 15th March Worship

10:00am: Church Family Worship (plus young people's group). Sorry, no Storytelling this week!

Leader: Martin Bancroft (LLM)

Speaker: Rev Canon Vivien Gisby

Bible Reading: John 9:1-41

Theme: What do you see?

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 at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel - lasting 30-40 minutes.
Next Meeting: **18th March**

Thursday Morning 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

19th March: Morning Prayer

26th March: Midweek Communion Service

Thursday Homegroup (not on during Lent)

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

Listening to God

(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 activities which you're happy to be included in this weekly bulletin/newsletter or 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, Katie Wilcock:

Phone: 07435 568 729

Email: safeguarding@stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk

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