

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

19th April 2026



Rev'd Canon Viven Gisby

Daniel 6: 1-23



We find ourselves not long after Easter Sunday in Daniel chapter 6, one of the set readings for evening prayer.

The background is that Babylon has plundered Jerusalem and carried off some of the high-status Israelites to be trained for service in the king's palace; one of whom is Daniel. He is particularly gifted, and in due course finds himself working for King Darius himself in a very senior position. Daniel is also a model of religious faithfulness and goes into his room every day to pray to the Lord, opening his windows towards Jerusalem. (Have a look at what Jesus says about prayer in Matthew 6).



Daniels' abilities arouse the jealousies of the other senior men in the court though. They conspire to assault Daniels character and permanently strip him of his sway with the king.

It's part of the shadow side of human existence isn't it when there are those who can't simply accept the gifts of others for what they are without feeling threatened by them or trying to undermine them, but this is exactly what the officials in our story set out to do. First of all they try to find some grounds for complaints against Daniel. Then when they can't find any they conspire together by flattering and manipulating the king into signing an ordinance that says everyone has to pray to the king - and anyone who doesn't (and Daniel doesn't) is to be thrown into den of lions. Their unity is impressive but their goal isn't.

These men are insecure and fanatical; with hatred in their hearts as they strive to sabotage Daniel's position. King Darius himself is a complex character. We might ask on the one hand what sort of vicious man is this who keeps a lion's den into which to throw his enemies? Perhaps we might see him as representing all those (including those in our world) who are more than happy to throw their enemies to what we might describe as 'metaphorical' lions; people who are perfectly willing to damage those who get in the way of their plans or position.

Yet on the other hand Darius comes across as feeble and ineffectual, so easily swayed by flattery that he walks straight into the legal trap that has been set for him. He is so conflicted and appalled by his terrible judgment that he can't eat on the night before Daniel is put into the den. He even asks that Daniel would be faithfully delivered by God.

After an unsettled night the king goes to the den through the first light of the dawn and finds Daniel unharmed and giving credit for his survival to God's protective angel.



A turning point is reached for King Darius who, from his previous weakness, becomes instead decisive and resolute.

He condemns the guilty officials (who lose their important jobs and are thrown into the lion's den themselves) and promotes worship of the Lord. Why has he changed so dramatically do you think?

Have you ever had an experience which has substantially changed you?

As for Daniel he remains himself. The plots and politics of the court have surged around him but he has fearlessly stuck to his principles; standing tall as one who, 'did justice, loved mercy and walked humbly with his God' (Micah 6: 8). And surely that's an inspiration for all of us too.

And finally, here is a question for you.



Think about the figure of the king creeping towards what he thought was a tomb as the day dawned. Think about Daniel emerging still alive.

In this Easter season where have you heard a similar story before?



@stmikesmacclesfield



01625 421 984



Market Place, SK10 1DY

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

19th April 2026



National Emergency Briefing

on the climate & nature crisis

Took place on Nov 27th



Eco Tip

The National Emergency Briefing was first held on 27th November 2025 at Westminster Central Hall, chaired by Professor Mike Berners-Lee and opened by Chris Packham.

It brought together leading experts, including Professor Nathalie Seddon on nature and Professor Kevin Anderson on climate, to provide a high-level, unfiltered briefing on the interconnected crises affecting food supply, health, national security, and the economy in the UK. The briefing emphasized that urgent, WW2-scale action is required to address these challenges.

Watch the talks from the NEB - they can be found on YouTube. The National Emergency Briefing - YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@nebriefing>)

Warning! It is not an easy watch. But it is a timely and challenging reminder of how far we are along the road to damaging God's creation drastically and irretrievably; and to making life next to impossible for many billions of our neighbours both in the Global South and nearer to home.

St Michael's Cricket Club Fixtures

- Tuesday 5th May** - Moss Hey (H)
- Wednesday 13th May** - Stockport Teachers (A)
- Wednesday 3rd June** - Macc Occasionals (H)
- Tuesday 16th June** - Stockport Teachers (H)
- Tuesday 23rd June** - Hare and Hounds (H)
- Wednesday 8th July** - Radbroke Hall (A)
- Tuesday 14th July** - Radbroke Hall (H)
- Wednesday 22nd July** - Macc Occasionals (H)
- Tuesday 28th July** - Moss Hey (A)

St Michael's Eco-church group

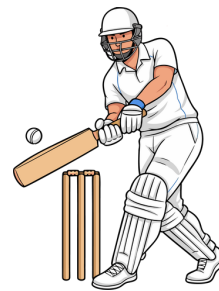
The next meeting is on Monday 20th April at 7.30pm in the welcome area.

Everyone who is concerned about the care of God's amazing creation and the role we as Christians at St Michael's are and should have is very welcome to attend.



One of our Strategic Goals - as confirmed at the recent Vision Day - is to achieve the Gold award. But we will need everyone's help to get there!

St Michael's Cricket Club

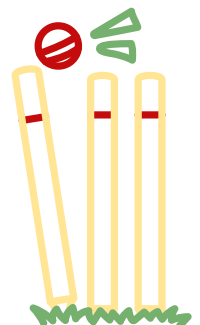


We play 20-20 social cricket - very much for fun but we do like to win!

Please contact David Mayers if you want to be involved in any way - player, umpire, supporter?

Evening games start at 6.30pm; or earlier in May or later in the summer.

Our home ground is Kerridge CC on Clarke Lane Clarke Lane.



@stmikesmacclesfield



01625 421 984



Market Place, SK10 1DY

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

19th April 2026



3rd Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Annual Meeting - THIS Sunday!

The annual church meeting is straight after the service this Sunday. As a reminder, there will be several vacancies as terms of office are coming to an end. The positions available are:

- Churchwarden (Rachel has to step down after 6 years)
- Deanery Synod Representatives (up to 4)
- Church Council (6 vacancies)

The elected representatives are:
Jonny Porter, Anne Radmall,
Paul Simms and Tricia Wilson.



Money Management Course

Designed by Christians Against Poverty (CAP).
Venue: TFW church, Tytherington
Dates: Every Wednesday from 29th April 2026 for 4 weeks. Open to anybody.

People can sign up via the website:
<https://capuk.org/get-help/money-coaching>



There is no charge.
Further info available from Steve Corker
01625 615195,
capmoneycoaching@tfwchurch.com
See flyer attached for more information.

Church Flowers

The beautiful yellow roses on the Chancel table last Sunday and this week have been donated by Jo Durbin in loving memory of her very dear and much loved Eric.



The flowers in the Worship Area this weekend have been lovingly donated by Martin Bancroft for his wife Sallie's 60th birthday. Happy Birthday Sallie.



Spring Fair & Plant Sale - St Barnabas

There will be a plant on 25th April 11-am- 2-pm at St Barnabas Church, Lime Avenue. Indoor and outdoor plants gratefully accepted.
Do come along!
See Poster attached for more details.



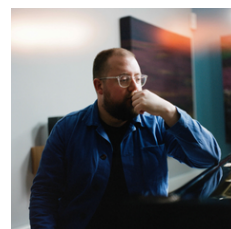
Music @ Mikes 1.15pm

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 16th April
**Anna Cowham (cello),
Emma Tennant (clarinet)
& Julian Davis (piano)**



Friday 24th April
Simeon Walker (piano)



@stmikesmacclesfield



01625 421 984



Market Place, SK10 1DY

Sunday 19th April Worship

10:00am: 3rd Sunday of Easter. Holy Communion (plus young people's group).

Storytelling this week: "Jesus is Risen"

This weeks service will be shorted due to the annual meeting after the service.

Leader: Revd Martin Stephens

Speaker: Rev 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 at 10:30 am in the Savage Chapel - lasting 30-40 minutes.

Next Meeting: **22nd April**

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

16th April: Morning Prayer

23rd April: Midweek Communion Service

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're happy to be included in this 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

Donating to St Michael's is easy!

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

DONATE ❤️



SCAN ME



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.