

A newsletter brought to you during Covid-19



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Church Together Apart



PRAY AND TAKE ACTION FOR OUR COMMON HOME

The Season of Creation

**"Jubilee of the Earth:
New Rhythms, New Hope"**
1st September to 4th October 2020

Climate change is a result of greed, inequality and destruction of God's Earth. The theme of Jubilee is chosen for this year's Season of Creation as it reflects those three interlocking themes. Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor. Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most must make restitution to those who have suffered the most. Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people.

The concept of Jubilee is rooted in the holy wisdom that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities. When one variable is exploited to maximize growth of another, the whole system will eventually suffer. When one part of the Earth community is stressed, every part is affected. In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic demonstrated this reality on a global scale. While the experience of living with the COVID-19 outbreak points back to this need to

maintain justice, the lessons that we learn may point us towards the need for a Jubilee and motivate us to restore balance to the very systems that sustain life.

This year we at St Michael's are once again joining with St Alban's and other churches in the town to celebrate and pray for God's creation. This year of course it will be different; we can participate physically and virtually. Please use the calendar for inspiration for your prayers and actions [here](#) (or enclosed with hard copy versions) See below for the events organised for the first week of the season; look out for more details to follow.

David Mayers

*See an alternative calendar for
the Season of Creation on the back page*



SEASON OF CREATION

Tuesday 1st September

"World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation"
Join online global prayer services - details soon
at <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Sunday 6th September

Climate Sunday Services

All Masses at **St Albans Church**, Chester Road SK11 8JD

[http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/
stalbanslivestream.html](http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/stalbanslivestream.html)

10.00am Climate Sunday Service

St Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY

Zoom: Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625
or click on link on page 2 of the newsletter for that week.

12.00 noon Family Cycle Ride

Cycle to Nelson Pit for picnic
Meet at Tesco Car Park SK10 2AB

St Michael's Merged Worship 23rd Aug 2020
at 10.00am Join in person in church or by
clicking on the image below from 9.45am



Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Barry Langman
Preaching: Mike Strutt
Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

You will have the opportunity to talk to a smaller group in a break out room at the end of the service.

Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?

Watch the recording at a time to suit you after Sunday lunchtime [here](#)

No Computer? No problem!

You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and services with your landline phone

If phoning:



Dial **0330 088 5830**.

When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID** from any of these boxes followed by #

[For Sunday's service: 939 7279 7379]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:
[Click here for more info](#)

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources: [click here](#)

NEW Summer Club for families:

[Parents Notes](#) and Resources for [23rdAug](#)

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Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

NEW!

Meeting ID: 982 3541

9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate Wednesday evenings

Dates: 2nd & 16th Sept

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)



Meeting ID: 912 6715 2374

Password: 980944

Particularly aimed at those of working age (whether on furlough, unemployed or working flat-out). Nothing heavy – at least not at this stage – but just the opportunity to share life and faith with others in a similar situation.

Thursday Homegroup

We are meeting via Zoom at 7.30pm. We are continuing with our study of Luke's Gospel. Any one is welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone. For details, including the Zoom link, please contact David Mayers by [email](#) or by phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802 659

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Dates
for your Diary

A Grief Pandemic

A nation in mourning Co-op Funeralcare Media Report July 2020

Death, a subject that people in the UK have traditionally tried to brush under the carpet and avoid discussing, has dominated the news worldwide for the last 4 months. At a time where all normality ceased, at the peak of the virus the one constant was that every evening our government reported on the growing loss of life resulting from the coronavirus.

By the middle of May 2020 one estimate indicated an additional 55,000 more deaths had occurred than would be expected based on the average for the period over the last five years. That means that as of May 8, the UK had seen an increase of 67 per cent more deaths than in a usual year. (ONS)

But there's so much more to those figures, and behind every one of those deaths there is a story of a person lost and the loved ones and legacy they leave behind.

In the first of a series of reports looking at how our nation deals with grief, the UK's leading funeral provider, Co-op Funeralcare has shared its observations of the pandemic, highlighting the stories behind those figures. The findings paint a picture of a nation in mourning. They show the personal toll of the lockdown on bereaved families who were unable to say goodbye as they wished and the thousands of people this has left unable to grieve.

The first report makes for sobering reading and as the UK begins to emerge from four months in lockdown, the impact of restrictions on

our ability to say our last goodbye are only just emerging. Experts are warning that we are on the brink of a grief pandemic.

Despite millions not being able to attend the funerals of loved ones, Co-op Funeralcare has seen a growth in live streaming of funeral services. Many crematoriums have the ability to live stream the funeral service so mourners that can't physically be there on the day still get to pay their final respects. 10% of those who have experienced the bereavement of someone they know since lockdown said that attending a funeral that was live streamed has helped them to grieve during this time. The research shows that over one third of bereaved adults have been denied their final farewell. 37% of UK adults, who have experienced the bereavement of someone they know since lockdown, feel they haven't been able to pay their respects by being unable to attend the funeral of their loved one, while just over one quarter expressed that they feel guilty their loved one hasn't been able to have the funeral they deserved. 59% of UK adults who have lost a loved one during lockdown said their grief process has been negatively affected by the restrictions in place, nearly two thirds (61%) said that nothing has helped them to grieve.

As being present during the passing of a loved one and attending the funeral haven't been possible for many bereaved individuals during the pandemic, the grieving process has been

(Continued on page 5)

59%

of UK adults who have lost a loved one during lockdown said their grief process has been negatively affected by the restrictions in place



An estimated

243,000

bereaved families have been unable to have the services they would have chosen for their loved ones.²

37%

of UK adults, who have experienced the bereavement of someone they know since lockdown, feel they haven't been able to pay their respects by being unable to attend the funeral of their loved one



One in 10 families
opt for direct cremation funerals,
whereas prior to the pandemic it was
one in every 25



An estimated

9.7 million

tourists have b



A nation in mourning
Co-op Funeralcare Media Report July 2020

What to do with all those courgettes?

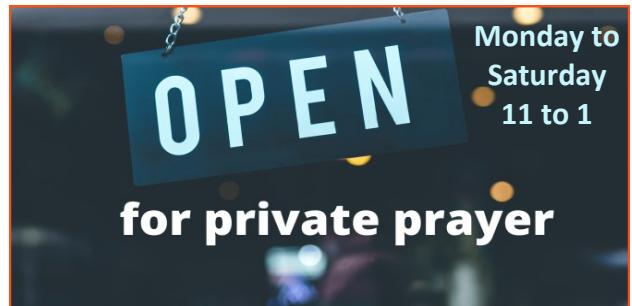
Try this vegetarian dish - simple, nutritious, and very tasty!

Nut and cream cheese bake –

100g butter
450g onions chopped
450g courgettes sliced
175g mushrooms sliced
175g wholemeal breadcrumbs
350g cream cheese
50g nibbed almonds (*Ed: thought this said nibbled!!*)
50g walnut pieces, chopped
50g dessicated coconut
2 tbs tomato puree
Few drops Tabasco sauce
½ tsp each of dried rosemary, sage and marjoram



In a large frying pan melt butter and fry onions and courgettes until onion is transparent; add mushrooms and fry for 2 minutes. In a large basin combine the veg mixture with all remaining ingredients until evenly blended. Turn into a large ovenproof dish. Cover and bake at 190C for 40 minutes; remove the lid for last 10 minutes to brown the surface.



Ever-present God, be in the ordinary moments of this day; the cleaning the house, feeding kids, washing clothes, driving to work, walking the dog, on our own, in a crowd, drinking tea, demanding and unwinding moments. Be the song that we sing in our busyness and rest, the ever-present friend on whom we can depend.

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Church Office Team are taking a break

Sue, Chip and Kez are on leave from 24th August to 7th September (two weeks). Lynne Spedding has very kindly agreed to take charge as guest editor in my absence for those two weeks. Thank you Lynne.

Please would you send any content for the newsletter - news, views, photos, notices etc. through to Lynne's own email address rather than the office address to ensure your content gets included.

lynne.norbron@gmail.com



Highly Recommended

The Man Who Planted Trees by Jean Giono



Highly recommended to you by our church member, Anne Kite: click on the image to watch the delightful Dean of Canterbury Cathedral sitting in his garden reading 'From The Man who planted trees' by Jean Gioni (approx. 50 mins).

There are a number of other readings by the Dean. For example, Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes is Robert Louis Stevenson's story of his "pilgrimage", made alone, with Modestine the donkey he bought to carry his luggage for the twelve day walk across valleys and mountains in the South of France in 1878. Watch them [here](#).

There is also a reading of The Voyage of Saint Brendan, Journey to the Promised Land, one of the most famous and enduring stories of Western Christendom. For this and other videos from the Dean, including the cathedral's two pigs, Winston and Clemmie, click [here](#).



THANK YOU!

We would like to say a big thank you for the yummy cake that we received from the church. It has been a very busy time and it was so nice to receive such a thoughtful (and tasty) gift. It did not last long!

God bless,
John, Jen, Fraser
and Finlay Neill

Vote for your favourite Carol

So will that be Carol Riesen, Carole Snowdown or Carole Blakey...? No, I'm thinking Away in a Manger, Once in Royal... - you catch my drift..?

So yes, I really am going to mention the 'C' word in August.

This Christmas Songs of Praise will be counting down the UK's Top 10 most popular carols based on your votes and they want to know which are your favourites.

They have put together a list of 50 Advent and Christmas carols and traditional Christmas favourites for you to choose from. It includes the carols featured most often on Songs of Praise over the last 5 years, plus some additional music chosen by an expert panel and the Songs of Praise team.

Click on the image and cast your vote.



Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

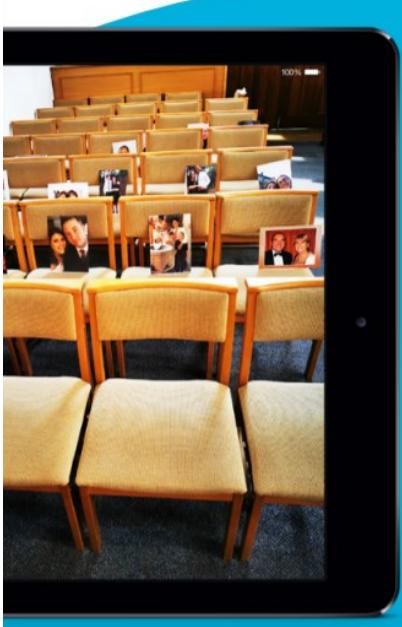
Click here to donate towards our church's ministry



(Continued from page 3)

significantly delayed for millions, as an estimated 9.7 million mourners have been denied the opportunity to say their last goodbye at their loved one's funeral. Lockdown has also meant that grieving individuals will have had to experience special milestones, such as birthdays and anniversaries, alone.

Returning to a new normality post-lockdown will be harder for those who have sadly lost a loved one.



CASE STUDY: JEAN BRACKENBURY

Jean, 84, moved to West Sussex from Grimsby so that she could spend lockdown in the company of her son Alan and daughter-in-law, Pat.

Sadly, Jean had unknowingly contracted coronavirus and died. Jean's funeral took place at Chichester Crematorium. Because of the restrictions on funeral numbers, coupled with the fact that most of her family lived up north, Alan and Pat thought it would be a beautiful idea to place a photograph of every family member and her friends on the seats in the crematorium.

Jean's service was live streamed so that loved ones could feel part of the service on the day.

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Dame Wanda Arrives in Macclesfield

Dame Wanda London to Macclesfield Stage 3

Braunston to Macclesfield

122 miles, 143 locks, 67.25 cruising hours over 7 days

9th to 15th August 2020

As I write this with the rain thrashing against the skylight window, I am grateful that we had such a glorious week for the last leg of the epic journey, with only the odd shower, night-time thunder and lightning and one hailstorm that stopped us for an hour. We return bronzed and my hair has turned blond (well sort of).

I planned for us to return via Birmingham, not the most direct route back but one that would avoid the holiday boating crowds (due to the high number of locks on this route) and bring the joy of cruising a little of the Birmingham navigations. The run into the city was hard work, 25 locks in just over 3 miles. Much of it now built around and over, but nonetheless beautifully preserved for navigation. We moored near to Gas St Basin where the canal has become a centrepiece of inner-city rejuvenation. Even with all the Covid goings on, it was quite busy and atmospheric. We met our friends Nicola and Ian and had a very nice dinner and catch up.

A 'feature' of our journey has been putting in long days, this leg was no exception. Adrian is king of the locks whilst I maintain control of the stern. Our longest was day 2 from Bascote to Knowle top lock, when we cruised for 13.5 hours and passed through 38 locks. These were all double sized, unfortunately we didn't find another boat all day to share with, indeed only a handful passed us going the other way. The 20 lock Hatton flight in just over 1.5 miles was particularly splendid.

Drama on this leg was thankfully limited. No injuries or dips in the canal. I did manage to slip onto my bottom on a grassy bank near a lock which according to the skipper of the passing boat looked very comical, I was hoping he hadn't seen me do it. Just one head on collision, as we slowed for a blind corner, an unusual narrowboat with a centre cockpit and steering wheel (rather than a tiller on a rear stern) came piling round and found he was not able to turn, at all. It was more like a kiss of front fenders in the end, the only damage done was his death through embarrassment.

With little drama happening, entertainment was provided either by Adrian's live Facebook and Instagram updates, where a field of 'beef' (cows) is transformed into something interesting, or by my search for creative names of boats that we pass. It beggars my belief how some people can christen a boat with such a ludicrous name that they then have to live with for the next 30 years plus. Here is a selection seen, I will let you categorise them: creative/stupid/cheeky/clever/daft/annoying (fyi: narrowboats have flat bottoms):

HAZEL NUTT A FRAYED KNOT

KNOWURRYS (yes it really was spelt like this)

DISCO VERY (get it?) NOMAD RUSH

FLAT BOTTOMED GIRL

IT'S BEER O'CLOCK (substitute beer with wine or gin, or for me and Adrian, Pineapple and Orange Sherbert Mocktail)

And finally, WHY HURRY (I will categorise this one for you, VERY ANNOYING, as written without a '?')

DAME WANDA was christened by her original owners, I don't know the reasoning but like it very much. There is nothing like a dame. The last day started with our 8.45am pre-booked passage through the Harecastle tunnel north of Stoke-on-Trent, about 1.5 miles done



in 29 minutes. A stretch in the middle is very low, requiring a period of steering whilst ducking (or should that be ducking whilst steering?). Then onto the Macclesfield canal, to be joined by father (Charlie), sister (Julie) and cousin (John) at the picturesque 12 Bosley locks for a family run in. The final destination is the small marina in Macclesfield by (the old) Hovis Mill (now flats), but we were too late to check in there so moored on the canal. Our journey from holiday to home was but a 5-minute walk.



Daily record:

Sunday 9th August Braunston to Bascote staircase locks; Grand Union canal, 11 miles, 13 locks, 7 hours
Monday 10th to Knowle top lock; GU canal, 19 miles 3 furlongs (this word should be framed), 38 locks, 13.5 hours
Tuesday 11th to Gas St Basin; GU canal, Birmingham & Fazeley canal, 13m 7f, 25 locks, 8 hours
Weds 12th to Gailey visitor moorings (below lock); Birmingham Main Line and Staffs & Worcester canals, 24m 4f, 25 locks, 13 hours Thurs 13th to Stone; Staffs & Worcester and Trent & Mersey canals, 22m 2f, 15 locks, 10.5 hours Fri 14th to Harecastle tunnel south entrance; T&M canal, 13m, 14 locks, 6.5 hours Sat 15th to Macclesfield; T&M canal and Macclesfield canal, 18m, 13 locks, 8.75 hours

So that is it, the epic journey done, in all 227 miles, 236 locks and 125.75 cruising hours. Dame Wanda is now safely moored in Macclesfield marina, a 9-minute walk from the house. Lots of cruising up north to look forward to with friends and family.

Garrie & Adrian

Ed: Thank you for sharing your journey with us



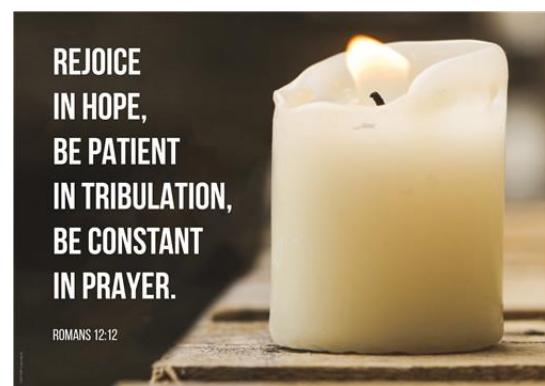
New mural at Macclesfield Station

Look out for the image of St Michael's included as part of the new artwork installed earlier this month. The metal artwork mural, commissioned by Macclesfield Town Council, and designed by artist Tim Davies, was the favourite choice of Macclesfield residents who voted on three different submissions in a public consultation last year. The design work was completed with help from children from Bollinbrook Primary School, Park Royal Community School, Ash Grove Academy and students from Macclesfield Academy and Macclesfield College.

Cricket. Lovely Cricket

This season for our St Michael's cricket team has been sadly curtailed; but since the middle of July we have managed to play some very enjoyable and entertaining matches. We haven't won any, but we did share in an amazing tie against Macclesfield Occasionals, and a very narrow 4 run defeat to our old rivals at Tytherington Family Worship. Other games have been against St. George's Leeds, Radbroke Hall and Prestbury 3rd XI; and we have 2 more games scheduled for September:

Sunday 6th Sept Ash Tree 2pm at Macclesfield CC
Sunday 20th Sept An Indian XI 1.30pm at Pott Shrigley CC
The photo shows our team at Harewood House near Leeds at the game against St George's – reinforced by a car-load of Vijay's friends from London. Please contact David Mayers (07963802659 davidjmayers@btinternet.com) for further information.



GCSE Exam News

Thinking of all those young people who received their GCSE grades on Thursday this week. Praying particularly for Eleanor Riesen, Connor Shaw, Aidan Simpson and Holly Stanway from our church.

We pray that you feel happy with the results you have received and that they reflect the hard work and study you have put in over the last couple of years. We wish you all well as you move into the next stage of your education or training. Please let us know what your next steps are...

GCSE maths questions in 2021 are going to be weird.

If Steve and Katy meet in a park on a Tuesday, and then Steve meets Darren in the park on Wednesday, washes his hands 23 times between and visits the mcdonalds drive thru 16 times how alert on a scale of 1-5 was he?

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DailyHOPE

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SEASON of CREATION

CALENDAR
1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER

1. Reflect on your current efforts to care for creation	2. Touch Earth with gladness	3. Pray for those places relocating people because of climate change: Kiribati, Vanuatu, Taro, Shishmaref, Isle de Jean Charles	4. Spend time in silence	5. Walk outside, conscious of the weather	6. Create a green space in your home place	7. Know that to live is holy
8. Walk in a park	9. Wake every day Earth Day	10. Lookdown, look around, look up	11. Look alive today!	12. Enjoy being in this moment	13. Pray for people who work to transform lives by providing access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation.	14. Smile at the landscape
15. Know that all of life is holy	16. Be conscious of the water you use	17. Watch the sunrise and set	18. Learn a poem or song on the theme of creation	19. Take flowers to a shut-in person	20. Step outside and look at the stars	21. Enjoy the unexpected events of this day
22. Write a thank you card	23. Pray for people who are victims and survivors of extreme weather events	24. Be a blessing for someone today	25. Count five blessings in your life	26. Rejoice in the gift of your life	27. Purchase less of what you need	28. Join a green organization
29. Read an article addressing environmental concerns	30. Sign a petition or write a letter or share with another person your concern for creation	1. Give thanks for all creation	2. Choose to walk today rather than drive	3. Have a digital device free day	4. Review the actions you have taken during this Season & commit to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with Earth and the Earth Community	

'Each human being is an image of God... each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God... The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God.' Laudato Si' #84, #86

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'We need to take up an ancient lesson... the conviction that "less is more", a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things; to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack...' Laudato Si' #222

Text: Anne Walsh, Design: Clare Lioche