



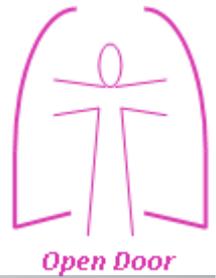
@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



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Running - Remembering - Reading - Renewing

As well as all the other descriptors for 2020 – and there will be many, of course – one daughter told me to call it 'a year of running'. In January, rather than set a New Year's resolution "to run every day" (which I haven't) or "to set off three times a week" (which I sometimes have), she said "Call it 'a year of running'. Then however much or little you manage, it will still be more than you did last year!"

Not least in lockdown, many people exercised more than in previous years; I hope that, like me, they're still doing so.

Usually when out running I remember the cross-country we did around the sports pitches at school. One time we were TREATED to having to do only ONE circuit of the ¾ mile field, after which we were allowed a snowball fight! (Are PE teachers still as sadistic as they were?) Although I wasn't the quickest I did quite enjoy the running. I guess it didn't need as much skill or co-ordination as football or rugby. Just putting one foot in front of the other.

These days as I run, it sometimes feels as though I still need that mind-set: just putting one foot in front of the other. But what also helps are friends. As I run I'm so grateful for Brian & Rachel who call round so we can run together. We cajole and encourage one another – sometimes just to head off. Without that call I'd easily stay home every day, especially now these early evenings are colder and darker. This morning's Bible **reading** was of Jesus calling his disciples (Luke 6.12-16). It's a familiar passage to me; perhaps it is to you too. Jesus spends the night in prayer, before he calls and chooses his 12 disciples, whom he also named apostles – and the twelve are listed one by one. They are called... and sent out.

Today (28th Oct) is actually the 44th anniversary of my confirmation – the occasion when I took on for myself the promises my godparents had made to God at my baptism. I, together with half a dozen other young people, knelt before the bishop and we were confirmed in our faith in Jesus.

I chose to do that, principally because of those other people my age. I got confirmed because others were; it was the encouragement and camaraderie I needed, just as having Brian & Rachel helps me to run regularly. Who helps you to remain active in the Christian journey? Have you got a group of Christian friends who encourage and cajole you to keep going in the faith? I hope so. If not, what can you

or we do about it?

My Confirmation was about me choosing to follow Jesus... and yet the reading is also about Jesus choosing us. Jesus prayed to God, and then He called, chose, and commissioned His followers.

Do you recognise it as the Lord who called you? In John's gospel, Jesus is recorded as saying: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

Perhaps some of you need to **renew** choosing to follow Jesus, to refresh your commitment to live a life sacrificially devoted to Him and His Kingdom. Or maybe you need to hear once again Jesus calling you.

Loving God, I want to know You in all Your fullness and experience Your glory like never before. I've wandered away from You, and have become lukewarm in my walk of faith. I repent for not giving You total control of my life. Jesus, fill me with Your love, refresh my faith, renew my strength and restore my hope. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I may taste and see each day that You are good! I dedicate my life anew to You, Lord God! In Jesus' Name.

Amen!

Mark

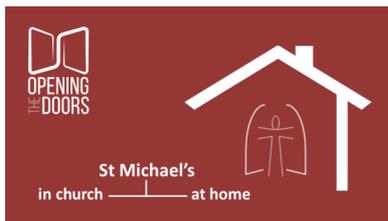
Join us for

Sunday Worship

St Michael's Worship 1st November 2020

**Two services this week both at 10am:
one in church and one on Zoom**

To join by Zoom click on the image below or use
Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625



Service Leader: Paul Simms (Church)
Talk: Mike Strutt
Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

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

Watch the recording of our morning worship service on
Zoom 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:

November Prayer Letter out this week

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults and families: click [here](#)

Resources for children: click [here](#)

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JOIN US ON Zoom

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 326 496 3258
Passcode: 139535

Hosted by Tricia & Martin



Coffee & Chat



Monday House Group:

When? 7.30pm til 9pm Monday evenings

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 910 4838 5228
Password: Monday

We've recently been looking at Paul's letters to the
Christians in Corinth, but there's also the
preliminary chat/pastoral catch-up and prayer
together. Join us, or for more information contact
Martin [by email](#) or 01625 426110

Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm. We are holding
discussions of our respective faith journeys but will
soon be moving on to discussing paintings that
depict some of the parables. All are welcome to
join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship,
including by phone. Please contact David Mayers
by [email](#) or phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659.

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's
ministry



Thank You



Many thanks to all at St Michael's for your best wishes and gift to me, during what is a difficult time for so many of us. I find I am so dependent for help to keep me going.

Thank you for all the information I receive through St Mike's News, and also by messages - so much so, that I feel the Church is only just around the corner.

Love and best wishes, Gerry

PS Please find attached a recent (before we entered tier 2) photograph taken with my son Andrew and new great grandson, Hart.



WANTED

Videographers & Editors

Many of our usual Christmas services will be recorded this year to enable those who can't attend in person to still take part.

We need help from anyone who can use a phone to film or who likes to use software like Movie Maker to edit and create recordings.



Please let Martin or Sue know if you can help

New Churchwarden for St Mike's



Rachel Mayers was duly elected Churchwarden at the recent Annual Meeting. We give thanks to Rachel for agreeing to take on this role in our church life and encourage everyone to give her their full support. Rachel will be admitted to office at the Archdeacon's Visitation Service this coming Thursday 4th November.

Please pray for Rachel as she embarks on this role. We will shortly be confirming who

her team of deputy wardens are.

Rachel replaces Tricia Atherton who steps down as warden. On behalf of everyone at St Michael's we thank Tricia for her hard work and loyal commitment to this role. A big thank you to Paul Simms also, as he agreed to stay on as Churchwarden, alongside Rachel, until the Annual Meeting next April 2021.



Our Remembering Service which this year is recorded is still available to view if you were not able to see it when it first went live on Sunday 25th October. Click on the image to the left to watch it now and remember a loved one gone but not forgotten (ca 29 mins).

Nativity Storytelling for Crib Service on Christmas Eve

*

Can You Help?

We are looking to adapt the traditional Christmas Eve Crib Service to make it practical and safe. Unfortunately, this means cutting out all singing and reducing the interactive elements which have been at the heart of this family service in previous years.

As an alternative we are looking to share the Nativity Story in church on screen in the form of five or six separate little videos generated by our church members using the storytelling style. We know many of us immensely enjoy the Godly Play videos produced by our church families and shared at our Sunday morning worship. They are like little gems, prepared with such creativity.

So, whether you are an experienced storyteller or a novice, please do let us know if you would be prepared to take on one of the Nativity parts and produce a little video using whatever figures and props you may have at hand. You may use a phone or laptop and further technical guidance will be provided.

Lynne has very kindly agreed to produce the script applying the usual magic she has with words.



We will 'knit' the videos together with suitable interludes in the form of music (recorded or live), readings or prayers.

Please do get in touch if you think you can help or would like to discuss further.

Many thanks!

Heike & Judith

E: heike.werner@talktalk.net

E: judithwhit@hotmail.co.uk



ROAR

REACH OUT & RECOVER

A hearty thank you to all who donated items or money towards the ROAR appeal to provide Christmas gifts for their client family and others who celebrate a Christmas Day meal with them.

I am delighted to say that, as a result of your generosity, we have now exceeded our target on gift-packs (each containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, hairbrush, a pair of socks and some chocolates).

The few surplus items will be kept to distribute to new arrivals at ROAR, many of whom come with virtually nothing.

Thank you again.

Lynne (on behalf of Jill Millward at ROAR)

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Registered Charity 1140845

0300 3034 566

Open Every day



**READY TO
LISTEN!**



A DIOCESE IN
PRAYER

8pm, every Sunday.



**We must
keep on protecting
each other.**



HANDS



FACE



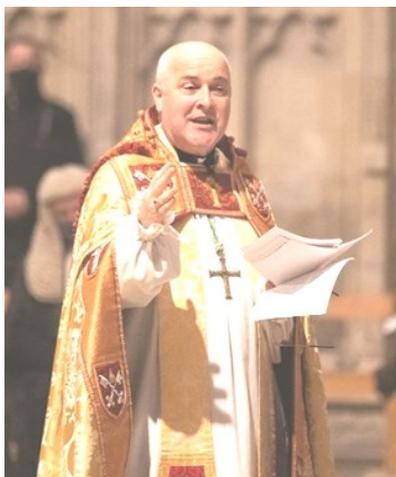
SPACE

STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

OPEN

Monday to
Saturday
11am to 1pm

for private prayer



Did you watch the enthronement service of the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, the new Archbishop of York? He delivered a very powerful sermon. He concluded it by saying these wise words:

“This is a time of huge challenge, uncertainty and fearfulness in our

we are at our very best when we build communities of love

divide us from each other and, as we see to our terrible detriment, the planet itself. As a church we need to let this vision enable us to embrace difference, disagree well, and turn ourselves inside

world. I am conscious that I’m standing in the shoes of some very great forebears, not least a man like William Temple who had a moral vision for the rebuilding of a nation. He was one of the architects of that post-war consensus that gave birth to a welfare state and to that NHS that we stood out on the streets and clapped every Thursday evening during the hardest days of lockdown.

What were we clapping? Well, yes, all those who worked in our health service, but also all the others whose labour kept us going: those who stack supermarket shelves; volunteer in foodbanks; drive delivery vans, or collect prescriptions. But I also think we were clapping a set of ideas that are very dear to us: a belief about our common humanity which says that we belong to each other and have a responsibility to each other and that we are at our very best when we build communities of love which look out for and cherish each other, so that there is healthcare for everyone, not just for those who can pay.

It is easy to take these ideas for granted. But they have an origin. They flow directly from the revelation of God in Jesus Christ who by his sharing in our life and through his death and resurrection has formed us into a new humanity, and brought us into a community of giving and receiving love.

Therefore, as a nation, we need to let this vision and these beautiful ideas, rekindle hope, build community, challenge the narrow and divisive versions of the world which only divide us from each other and, as we see to our terrible detriment, the planet itself. As a church we need to let this vision enable us to embrace difference, disagree well, and turn ourselves inside out in service, prophetic witness and joyful proclamation of the gospel to the world.

The problems of the world, be it racism, poverty or environmental catastrophe begin in the human heart which so easily turns in on itself – what we call sin - pulling up the drawbridge on the rest of humanity. It is fuelled by the unjust and oppressive structures of self-serving systems. But it can be changed. And this change comes when we behold the beauty and peace of Jesus Christ and are drawn into this strange, but determined to love each other and love the world, Church of Jesus Christ.

Let’s put this sign up outside our churches. Let’s wear it on our sleeves and declare it to the world: Everyone is welcome. Here is a place and here is a people where you will be safe, where you will be loved, where you will be accepted. This is where you will find hope for the world and a new vision for a new humanity. Enter here and be changed. Not into somebody else, but into the beautiful person you are meant to be. Then join with us in changing the world.”

The Most Revd Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell joined BBC Radio 4 PM Programme - speaking on the effect of the Covid restrictions on the poorest in our society. Listen to it [here](#)



Christmas Card Charity Shop in Macclesfield Library

Christmas Cards

The Children's Society

The Combined Christmas Card charity shop, held in Macclesfield Library, is to go ahead- on the first floor as usual. The Children’s Society in common with most charities is having a tough time raising funds. We have an excellent range of cards on display so if you can support us that would be great.

There will be no centre table selling Bric-a Brac. All Covid rules followed closely and lower staffing levels. You can see the range of cards online [here](#) If you are house bound or isolating, I can drop a brochure off and you can order through me.

Opening Times:-

Sat Nov 7th - Sat Dec 5th

Monday - Saturday 9.30- 12.30 and. 1.30-4.30pm

With thanks, Jenny Wild 01625 420352

A story of Thanks and Wondering



On one of our weekly Wednesday Coffee & Chats, I mentioned that many of our Godly Play disciple figures have disappeared from Church for quite some time before lockdown.... I have searched several times for them but they appear to be on a mission of their own into the deep unknown.

Dek Kite was on the Zoom call and kindly offered to have a go at recreating them in his workshop at home.

The templates were emailed last Thursday. I received a message this week to come and collect them! They are amazing!! (see picture)

HUGE thanks to Dek... the stories can go on now when we return to church 😊

In the meantime, thanks to all our fabulous homemade Godly Play stories and storytellers.

If anyone would like to have a go at recording a story that hasn't already, please let me know (via the office).

Leaving you in true Godly Play style -

I wonder where our missing wooden figures are?

Keep your eye out!

Judith



WHICH IS HARDEST FOR YOU TO SAY?

1. I LOVE YOU
2. I WAS WRONG, I'M SORRY
3. I NEED HELP
4. WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE
5. I APPRECIATE YOU

PRAYER

THE WORLD'S GREATEST
WIRELESS CONNECTION



Choir – by Chloe

If you had asked me what choir was 7 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people singing a song that they'd practiced.

If you had asked me what choir was 5 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people having fun learning songs and then performing them.

If you had asked me what choir was 4 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people working together on songs, even when they didn't feel like it, and even when they had bad days, and creating something beautiful. I would have told you that it was what I wanted to do in my life, but I didn't think I was good enough to.

If you had asked me what choir was 2 years ago, I would have told you it was a bunch of people that worked on a collection of pieces and tried to sing them exactly right so that the judges would like their performance. I would have told you that you could only be as good as the choir you were in.

If you had asked what choir was 1 year ago, I would have told you that it was a group of people that spent hours together perfecting music, and working to make people feel something when you sang that music. I would have told you that it is a group of people that are bonded together by the emotional connections they find with a song, and that, even though they may not all see eye to eye or be the best of friends, they are one.

Today I can tell you that a choir is a family. A choir is a family that is held together, not by mutual interests or blood, but by a love of music. A choir is a family that has bonded over the hearts they have poured into their music, a family that may not always like each other but always loves each other, and a family that doesn't give up on anyone. I would have told you that choir is one of the things I have done with my life, and that my choir family has faced disappointment and heartache and fear, and that maybe we still are. Maybe there isn't a single guarantee that we will ever sing together again, and maybe our last performance together already passed and we didn't even know. But I don't believe that. Because a choir is more than just a bunch of people singing a song they've practiced. It is hours and days and months and years of commitment all built on top of itself and no virus is going to change that.



Pictured (left to right)

Jennifer Tristram, Freda Taylor, Pam Pearson, Marjery White (Joan Norbury (seated) Pat ?, Judy Bradbury.

After seeing Sylvia Burgess' photo of the Flower Sermons in the church newsletter this last week, I thought I would send one of mine. By the way, I knew every girl on her photo ! I think the photo was taken about 1955-56.

I have written on the back all their names (before marriage of course).

I include a copy of some of us in the Town Hall doing a Dutch dance. I am the third in line. You can see Joan Norbury sat watching in the middle of the photo.

Pam Pearson

Ed: Thank you Pam for sharing these photos with us and your memories. I assume in the flower sermon picture you are standing in front of what is now the office window at St Michael's.



Pictured (left to right)

Rona Warren (now Barlow), Freda Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Jean, Pam Pearson, Sheila Bardsley, ?, Myra Hankinson (now Clark), Kathleen Hough, Mary Nixon, Margaret Hoyle



My Favourite Hymns by Barbara Taylor



Thank you to everyone who shared their favourite hymns after reading about Sallie and Martin's last week. Here Barbara Taylor shares her favourites, and, like many of you, she found it difficult to narrow it down to just one.

"For me, the most memorable hymns have been with me since childhood. I spent most of my early years abroad, and Church was always a big part of my life.

The Day thou gavest Lord is ended - reminds me of cold winter nights at Evensong. This hymn always gave me a sense of constancy and continuity, knowing that congregations all over the world shared a love of it.

Be thou my vision - always gives me a sense of peace, and the everlasting love of God. Awesome to realise how old this one is.

A mighty fortress is our God - "the Lutheran hymn"? reminds me of school in Canada. My classmates were truly international.

O Valiant Hearts - a topical one as we approach Remembrance Sunday. Reminds me of school assemblies, again in Canada. A beautiful tune.

Eternal Father strong to save - the power of the sea, and the presence of God in times of trouble. Heard this one wherever we lived, because of the Mission to Seafarers."

The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of the pain, thanking God during the trials, trusting Him when we're tempted to lose Hope and LOVING HIM when He seems so distant and far away. At my lowest, God is my hope. At my darkest, God is my light. At my weakest, God is my strength. At my saddest, God is my comforter. SPIRITUAL INSPIRATION

Social distancing and lockdown come naturally to the Poor Clares of Arundel in West Sussex. Now, though, the outside world is hearing from the Poor Clares, because on the eve of lockdown, back in March, the nuns were in the final stages of recording their debut album. The sisters hope it will bring some of the simple, balanced principles of cloister life to those struggling with the fallout from Covid.



The Poor Clares practise a kind of ancient mindfulness: they focus on the present, and other than visits to the doctor or dentist, they stay within the confines of their monastery. At the height of lockdown, people would contact them to ask for advice on how to cope with having to stay in the same place, day after day. The advice? "Pay attention to regularity in your life, and do things by a timetable. That's how it works for us." Assuming them to be meek and mild and reticent is one of the many mistakes people make, says Sister Gabriel. "People expect us to be sombre, whereas there's a lot of fun and laughter in our lives. They think we're not in touch with politics – they think we're not ordinary women, when in fact we very much are." What's different about life in the community isn't that nuns are a different species, but that they've bought into a simpler life. In a complex, upside-down world, could it be that their daily routine has wisdom to impart to the rest of us?

The sisters rise at 5.30am (5am in summer) to embark on a day that follows more or less the same structure Poor Clares and other monastic orders have followed for hundreds of years. After breakfast and an hour's meditation, the nuns gather in their chapel for prayers and, two days a week, for mass. Then they have a period for work, which might be anything from cooking to working in the vegetable garden, to doing paid work, which is spiritual direction, which they've switched to Zoom.

Lunch, the main meal of the day, is eaten in silence while one sister reads aloud from a spiritual text; the same happens at supper, but the text is what they describe as "a lighter book – it might be a biography, for example". After lunch comes a rest period and more work, before (on three days of the week) "recreation", where the sisters are free to chat and catch up with one another's news.

"The thing about structure is, it helps you to use your time more wisely," says Sister Gabriel. "We often waste time: if you've got an eight-hour window for work, you dissipate and end up on the phone or computer. But if you've only got two hours, it forces you to use the time wisely. Structure creates space, to achieve what you want, and to simply be."

Music is at the heart of the nuns' worship – but the idea of

recording an album came about initially as a bit of a joke. Music producer James Morgan got in touch to ask whether he could come to vespers to hear the sisters sing. What he liked was the tone of their singing.

The sisters hope the album will allow them to share what matters to them with the outside world. They want people to know the essence of them, what they believe in and what brings them joy. The music on the album – which includes a traditional Ave Maria, Psalm 27 (O Lord, Hear My Voice) and In Paradisum, sung by the nuns at their funeral liturgies – also features the words set to music of St Francis and St Clare, the order's founders.

Those founders lived eight centuries ago but they knew many things we still struggle with today, including how important it is to understand our relationship with the environment. So the nuns live as sustainably as possible. They grow what they can and are very careful about waste – anything not eaten at lunch one day will be supper the next. And they share with others by supporting the local food bank. They have taken a vow of poverty and they don't own anything. And they believe that's what needs to happen with the world. We all need to use less, so people with less can have more.

Each sister wears a Tau cross, based on the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet and worn by St Francis. They acknowledge many people don't believe in God, but they feel that many people do recognise some kind of higher power. They think that being connected to something bigger than ourselves stops us being narcissistic.

Light for the World by the Poor Clares of Arundel is out now on the Decca record label (£12.75 for the CD)

Extracted from article by Joanna Moorhead in The Observer Sunday 25th October

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers