



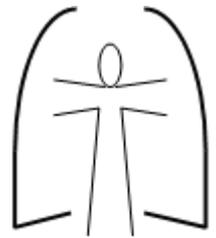
@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on Instagram



Open Door



## Happy Memories of St Michael's

by Sylvia Moss

This December, in the town centre, we are having an Advent Trail. It will replace the usual lights switch on event which can't happen now. The idea is that businesses and community organisations will construct a 'window' on their premises and they will be lit up, an additional one per day, until all are lit for Christmas. People will go round, following the trail, with maps and apps provided. It is hoped to have a celebration countdown as each is illuminated.

St Michael's will have the office window lit up with a picture or design to celebrate Advent. It can be anything we choose. Please will you join me to create this? We can pool ideas and resources to come up with something eye-catching and wonderful! All ages and abilities very welcome. We can discuss it over Zoom and then work out how to make it safely. Thank you very much

Catherine Stephens



I was christened, confirmed and married at St Michael's. I went to Beech Lane School and Sunday School. The photo shows me carrying the canopy and six friends carrying the ribbons for the St Michael's Flower sermons. Pictured with me are Iris Baker, Margaret Baker, Shirley Hankinson, Vera Barton, Jean Mason and Vida Till.

I was in the Brownies and then the Guides. I went to Youth Fellowship where Marjorie Porter was leader. I was also in the St Michael's Players where Richard Porter was the producer. The show was on for three nights in October at the Tin Tab until it burned down. Then we went to the Martineau Hall on Jordangate. The audience used to say how they loved to hear Chris Porter sing. His family were also in the cast: Alison, Rachel and Jonathan. During the winter months we toured the old people's homes in Cheshire.

I went to church every Sunday evening with my Auntie Bette Porter. Chris used to take us. Bette was my best friend. I loved her very much.

Sorry if I've bored you...

Sylvia Moss (nee Burgess)

*Ed: Sylvia you most definitely have not bored us at all. I am sure that many will love hearing your treasured memories of associations with St Michael's over the years and to the Porter family. Thank you for sharing them with us.*

### Remembrance Sunday

There will be a short act of remembrance in St Michael's Church on Sunday 8th November at 10.55am led by Martin Stephens. We aim to finish the 10am service at 10.45am to enable this to take place.



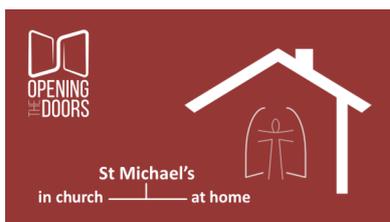
Join us for

# Sunday Worship

## St Michael's Worship 25th October 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 (Zoom) Catherine (Church)  
Talk: Lynne Spedding (recorded for Zoom)  
Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

### 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:

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

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

Resources for children: click [here](#)

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.  
Reproduced with permission.

# 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



## Samaritan's purse show box appeal

If you would like to donate a gift filled shoe box for the charity Samaritan's Purse, the United Reformed Church at the bottom of Mill



Street will be acting as a drop off point. Please drop off at the front entrance of the church. Hand sanitisers will be provided and safe distancing measures will be in operation at:

- ✦ 9.30am to 12.30pm - Saturday 31st October
- ✦ 9.30am to 12.30pm - Saturday 7th November

If you need any more information, please email Barbara at [barbara\\_davis58@hotmail.com](mailto:barbara_davis58@hotmail.com)



Kath Langan gave me these gentians many years ago. Each Autumn they put on a vibrant show and remind me so much of Kath and all she meant to so many of us.

*Eve Budgett*

## THE PASTOR STOLE OUR SPOON!

A pastor had dinner at the home of a couple in his church. After he left, the wife said to the husband, "I think he stole our spoon!" This bothered her for a whole year.



A year later the couple had the pastor for dinner again. Unable to resist, the wife asked, "Did you steal our spoon last year?" The pastor replied, "No, I put it inside your Bible."

## Remembering Loved Ones



Join with us online at 4pm on Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Oct to remember loved ones who have passed away but are not forgotten.

This short service, recorded by the clergy and members of churches in Macclesfield, will include readings and prayers, music and silence.

As part of the service we will light candles in St Michael's Church to aid our thoughts.

Members of our churches will be filming contributions from their home or from church.

Unable to hold our regular 'Remembering Service' in St Michael's this year, I invite you to be still, remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one.

*Mark Stepler*  
Revd Martin Stephe's  
Team Rector of Macclesfield

Our Remembering Service will begin at 4pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October and will be available for two weeks afterwards.

[Access the recording here](#)

YOU CAN'T GO OUT  
UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN  
NEUTERED

BLOODY HELL!  
WHERE DOES IT  
SAY THAT?!



# Your Favourite Hymn

Listening to Graham's talk back on Prison Sunday (11th October), I kept getting the words of a well known hymn stuck in my head. It was one I had learned at school when I was young and I don't think I have sung for years. It was "I was cold, I was hungry, were you there? And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?" There are in fact many songs and hymns which reflect this theme of loving others following the commandment Jesus gave us 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. I'm sure you can think of many others.

This got me thinking about favourite hymns and worship songs and I started to wonder what yours might be. I asked Sallie and Martin for their favourite and the reasons why it's their favourite. What might yours be, and why?

For the next few days I am running a poll on our social media platforms to see what favourite hymns people have. I'll share the results with you in a future edition. *Sue Reid*

What's your favourite hymn or worship song and why? [Email me](#) or take part via [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

## Our Favourite Hymns by Sallie & Martin Bancroft

**M**artin Deciding on a favourite hymn is difficult. When I was growing up I would probably have selected one of the Christian Martial hymns like "Onward Christian Soldiers" or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic – Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord" because the macho posturing of both of these hymns was something that appealed to a young boy always playing with toy soldiers and fake, play wars. Such hymns are unpopular nowadays because two world wars and many other conflicts brought the reality of war home to many. They are not judged to be politically correct any longer by many people and there is a justifiable distaste for such macho, triumphal and imperialist sentiments that glorify war. I also realised as a youngster that at Christmas, as a boy treble in the church choir in Manchester, "Ding Dong Merrily on High" was exciting, fast and well within my capabilities.



When I had children, I used to sing the great Whittier/Parry hymn "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" to them at prayer time as they went to bed. Clearly this to me is a work of genius, both lyrically and musically but it still isn't my favourite, even though it seemed to settle Emily in particular and I can truthfully say I know it by heart. "At the Name of Jesus" was another with appeal, mainly due to its pace. I also love Cwm Rhondda Williams/Hughes "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" in this, its original version, but I suspect that the reason I love this has more to do with the roar of the Rugby Union Internationals than Christian sentiment (and besides, although I have a number of close Welsh friends, I am an England Supporter!). Which leaves only four hymns in contention:-

- "Be Thou My Vision" – Byrne/ Hull/ Shaw/ Slane
- "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – Neal – from Latin with a 15<sup>th</sup> century, plainsong melody
- "We Rest On Thee" – Cherry/Sibelius – Finlandia
- "In Christ Alone" – Stuart Townend

I guess I can't choose "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" although I love to sing it in choir as a bass baritone. I love its thunderous resonance and the chance to indulge my voice at full power, but it is an Advent hymn, and so I put it to one side as I would have done "In the Bleak Midwinter" as that is a Christmas Carol, although I think Christina Rossetti was a genius.

"We Rest On Thee" I love the words too and of course I adore the tune. Finlandia must be one of the greatest melodies ever written, but again I must reject it (slightly) because it appeals to my vanity as a singer because I think I can make a nice sound singing it. I also love "Be Thou My Vision" but again it has an appeal to something I am slightly suspicious of in myself if in that at least one verse is rather militaristic (although it resonates with me as a Christian). It is also another hymn that tempts me to "show off" whatever ability I have.

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

# Or Worship Song?

So that leaves Stuart Townend's "In Christ Alone". Lyrically it says what I want to say, and I like the melody. It stretched me as a singer, but when I sing it, I have the feeling that the great Christian Missionary, Eric Liddell, had when he ran, which was that he "felt God's pleasure". Townend's hymn/song says everything I want to say and gives me a thrill; (and I hope God every time I sing it) - so that's my favourite.

**S**ally I could not tell you my 'favourite hymn' as I love so many; it would change more than daily and depends on how I am feeling and what is going through my mind at the time. Having said that, I have chosen a hymn from the long list of those which I class as my favourites:



The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended. Words: John Ellerton  
Tune: St Clements

Why, I hear you cry, have you chosen a Victorian hymn sung at funerals?!?

I cannot recall when I first heard this hymn; I must have been very young having grown up in the church, but my first clear memories of it are from when I was in the church choir, aged 13 to 18, at Christ Church, Wheelock; a tiny village church. We sang in two services every Sunday; Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong, with Sunday School in between. It was sung quite frequently and usually as the last hymn at Choral Evensong. I remember being moved by it, the tune and the words, and it still moves me today. (Incidentally, this hymn was written in 1870 while John Ellerton was vicar at Crewe Green, just up the road from Wheelock.)

The hymn can be summarised in Psalm 113:3-4 "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is exalted over all nations, His glory above the heavens." It spans from the creation of day and night in Genesis 1:3 to the exaltation of God in Revelation 5:13.

This hymn speaks to me of prayer, fellowship and of God's kingdom which is far greater than anything on earth. Just lately I have been thinking a lot about prayer so, perhaps, that is why this hymn came foremost to my mind when asked. It reminds us that prayer never stops; even when we are asleep others are awake and praying. This prayer unites us, draws us closer to each other, wherever we are in the world. We are brethren; brothers and sisters in Christ. It states that God's kingdom is greater than any on earth; finishing with the prayer that all God's creatures will acknowledge Him as reigning over everything. His kingdom lasts forever.

For me it is not a dirge, a sad hymn. It does not speak to me of death but of life. It may be a final hymn but it is not the end. This is a hymn of encounter with God through the beauty of creation, especially in sunrise and sunset, and of nurture with one another through prayer. A celebration of the continuity of prayer, it is a shout of praise and wonder and acclamation that God is greater than anything and everything. Amen!

## UK's Favourite Hymns

In a poll conducted by BBC Songs of Praise for 2019 Jerusalem was voted the UK's favourite hymn. The hymn takes an 1803 poem by William Blake and sets it to music written by Sir Hubert Parry. Members of the public chose from the 100 hymns that have featured most on the BBC show over the past five years.

1. Jerusalem
2. How Great Thou Art
3. In Christ Alone
4. Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
5. Abide With Me
6. I Vow To Thee My Country
7. Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer/Jehovah
8. Amazing Grace
9. Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord
10. I, the Lord Of Sea And Sky

## Best Worship Songs 2020 (Spotify)

1. Behold the Lamb
2. Goodness of God
3. Faithful now
4. Waymaker Live
5. Famous for (I believe)
6. Promises
7. King of Kings
8. The Blessing Love
9. Only Song
10. Fade

Listen to these songs on Spotify [here](#)



You might prefer this playlist featuring: MC Hammer "Can't touch this"; Celine Dion "All by myself"; Nirvana "Stay Away"; Police "Don't stand so close to me" ....

**SILKLIFE**  
**foodbank**  
 MACCLESFIELD

Silklife Foodbank is run and supported by Silklife Church on George Street, and is stocked mainly by regular food and financial donations from church members and the local community including St. Michael's congregation. All boxes are given freely!

Silklife Foodbank currently packs approx £800 of food per week (about £35k per year) for those in our area facing emergency food crisis. This figure is still rising in light of the pandemic.

You can help by buying items from the list below and leaving them in the collection box at St. Michael's, or at Sainsbury's. Food or financial donations can be made directly by delivering to the foodbank on Tuesday mornings 9:30am - 11:30am.

**Items needed regularly:** Milk (UHT or powdered), tinned meat/fish, sugar, fruit juice (carton), pasta sauces, sponge pudding (tinned), tomatoes (tinned), cereals, rice pudding (tinned), tea bags / instant coffee, instant mashed potato, rice / pasta, tinned fruit, jam / honey, biscuits/snack bars.

**Want to hear more  
 about the work of the Foodbank?**

St Alban's Justice & Peace Group invite you to a Zoom Meeting to hear its manager, Dan Blackman, talk about the work of Silklife Foodbank on :

Tuesday 27th October 7.30pm to 8.15 pm.  
 Zoom entry from 7.15pm

To register for the meeting and receive the link, please simply reply - with your name - to this email at SKeithTayl2@outlook.com

**They are also in desperate need of toilet rolls!**



Jane Munro has cancelled the Treacle Market for this Sunday – she said it was the most difficult decision she's ever taken!

**ROAR needs your help!**

If you could donate one or more of the following items, please put them in the box at church (in the Welcome Area), or contact Lynne Spedding [email](#) (or 614819) who will happily come and collect items from you.

- Soap**
- Shampoo**
- Deodorant**
- A chocolate treat**
- Toothbrush**
- Toothpaste**
- Socks**

Alternatively you can donate money and Lynne will purchase the items on your behalf.



**If you have links to NHS workers in your networks please share:**



The following has been shared Everybody Sport and Recreation:

'We'd like to say thank you to all the NHS staff across the UK that have been working continuously on the front line to support the country through the Covid-19 pandemic. Now that

we can reopen, we would like to show our appreciation by providing an exclusive membership offer to NHS staff to support them in staying healthy and active.' Click [here](#) for more information about the offer and what is included.



# Combatting Loneliness and Isolation

We all feel lonely sometimes but the coronavirus outbreak can make it harder to be with others, particularly if you are staying at home and live alone. The recent Tier 2 changes mean we can no longer mix households inside and working from home is encouraged. You might miss family and friends, colleagues, or other everyday connections you had. It's natural to feel like this now, and you should not blame yourself for these feelings, now or any other time. It's really important to remember these changes will not be forever.

**Sometimes a friendly chat is all you need to feel better.** We can all help each other to avoid or reduce loneliness, simply by taking the time to connect with each other. Phone family members, friends, work colleagues, church members or use online video programmes like Zoom or WhatsApp so you can meet virtually, and talk face to face. Sending a card or letter is a great way to reach out to someone.

Think about people you know who might be finding this time particularly difficult – those who are self-isolating for long periods, or who have other challenges in their lives – and make a special effort to connect with them. You could suggest making the call a regular part of your weekly routine and plan the next one.

Remember that feeling lonely for a long time can make it harder for people to make new connections. It may be difficult for people experiencing loneliness to respond to your friendly contact at first, so be patient and kind.

Alternatively, an email or a text can start a conversation. Is there someone you have lost contact with? This might be the time to get back in touch.

If you're worried about what to talk about, think about mutual interests and arrange to read the same book or watch the same TV show, so you can discuss it. Online games and quizzes are another great way to keep in touch if you have the technology. Maybe share your favourite hymns inspired by Sallie and Martin.

A number of our church members do not have online access and have just a landline as a way of keeping connected. In the absence of having people through their front door the voice at the end of the phone is like having a friend in the living room.

We wanted to remind you of the feature Martin discovered back in April that particularly helps those who only have a landline phone to stay connected with others. Perhaps you have already used it or maybe you had forgotten about it.

And don't forget there are people available to listen at St Michael's. Please do get in touch via the office or direct to Martin if that would help you. There is also the telephone listening service provided by the Hope Centre. See details in advert just to the right.

## Group Chat Facility Using Your Landline

Using the phone for one-to-one calls is great, but sometimes what you need is a chit-chat with a few people together, just like you would over a cuppa. We've set up a system to do just that.

Whoever wants to be part of a group chat each dials up the same number, then types in an access code, and finally a PIN. However many people do that can all join the same call. It's as easy as that!

### How do I do it?

- Agree a time for everyone to call.
- At the agreed time, everyone dial the phone number **0333 0110 946**.
- When prompted, enter the 'Room number' on the telephone keypad followed by the 'hash' key (**32610586 #**)
- When prompted, enter the PIN on the telephone keypad followed by the 'hash' key: (**8290 #**)
- You will then be available to speak to others who have also dialled in.

*If you're the first you will hear music whilst waiting for others to join you. When they do there'll be a chime to let you know. Say who you are, and enjoy the chat!*

## Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre  
Registered Charity 1140845

**0300 3034 566**

**Open Every day**



**READY TO LISTEN!**



## Support calls for a fair and green economic recovery

We cannot afford to go back to an economy based on burning fossil fuels, exploiting the natural world and keeping many people in poverty. "Let's build back better!"

### Please sign The Climate Coalition declaration:

Dear Prime Minister,

The time is now to lead the UK towards a healthier, greener, fairer future. Ahead of hosting the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow in 2021, we can build back better together if we:

- Leave no one behind by increasing support to those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and by scaling up investment in renewable energy in developing countries
- Unleash a clean energy revolution that boosts jobs across the UK, making our transport, power and housing fit for the future
- Protect, restore and expand our green and wild spaces, allowing nature to thrive, taking carbon from the air and boosting health

The UK must lead the world by ensuring our recovery gets us on track to net-zero emissions and limits the rise in global temperature to 1.5°C. Our best chance of building a resilient economy goes hand in hand with tackling climate change.

We are ready to play our part, and we call on you to join us. Click [here](#)

PS The climate coalition is an umbrella group for all the big charities, NGOs and churches – including the C of E, Christian Aid, CAFOD and Tearfund – who are working to limit the damage done to our poorer neighbours by climate change.

PPS If you don't have access to a computer and would like to sign the declaration there will be an opportunity to do so in church on 1st November

*David Mayers*

## Which bank do you use?

Most of us never consider changing our bank accounts, or what our bank does with our money. It's time we did! Most UK banks have invested, and are continuing to invest, billions of pounds in the fossil fuel industry. In fact, UK banks have invested well over £150 billion in polluting fossil fuels since the Paris climate agreement was signed in 2016. That means many of us are funding the climate crisis without even realising it. One answer is to switch to an ethical current account with Triodos Bank UK. Unlike many banks, Triodos don't fund the fossil fuel industry. To find out more click [here](#)



WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, BEAUTIFUL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

USE YOUR VOICE TO SAY #THETIMEISNOW FOR A GREEN AND FAIR RECOVERY