



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

2nd Issue: 5 April 2020

PALM SUNDAY

Due to the current circumstances we can't meet in person, but we can still keep in touch so we plan to issue a weekly 'Mini' version of the Messenger for the time being!

Please feel free to distribute this 'Mini Messenger' to others within the church community who may find it of interest.

A message from the Superintendent

Dear friends,

At the end of a church service the preacher stands and shakes hands with members of the congregation (at least with those who haven't found a way to avoid us!). As we do this people say some interesting things to us – "lovely hymns", "I enjoyed some of those hymns", "well that was different" and so on. Occasionally, however, someone will say "thank you I really needed to hear that", - sometimes we remember saying what they "needed" other times we have no recollection of it at all! God works with us and despite us in all kinds of ways to speak his words.

As we come to Holy week what do we need to hear? Palm Sunday marks the beginning of this incredible week where we see the depth of God's love, the reality of the God who became flesh to open our eyes to the divine. This week speaks of God's love, a love that cannot be stopped and will not be forgotten. This week speaks of God's investment in humanity, he becomes one of us and will not give us up – whatever happens! This week calls us to recognise who Jesus is, what he brings and make way for him in our lives!

*He comes the broken hearts to heal,
The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.
And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
Who weep and sigh;
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify.
Make way, make way
for Christ the King
and let his kingdom in!*

Along with the Mini-Messenger this week we have offered a booklet of devotions for each day in Holy week something to help you think, reflect and pray. So, I encourage you through Holy Week make space for God and more importantly make way for Christ the King! That is what we need.

with every blessing,
Graham

Palm Sunday 5 April 2020

This weeks' worship is led by Ros. Link below...

link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fbzDDkAENm9lyXnlem0XbdwO5llqncZ/view>

A slightly edited version will be on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/MacclefieldCircuit/>

And Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1PS5ox80YSZj71WMDHVmQ>

Fb and YouTube scheduled for 8am Sunday

Following guidance from The Methodist Church and development in Government instruction none of our churches will be open for private prayer for the time being.

Services coming up.....

9 April Maundy Thursday service - led by Ros

10 April Good Friday service - led by Graham or Helen

12 April Easter Day – two services will be available led by Graham & Helen: an 'all age worship' with puppets & traditional worship – choose your theme or watch both!

Please keep an eye on your email Inbox.

Children & Families

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, here's a special Palm Sunday clip with activity resources attached.

YouTube Clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4sX-fJosw8>

Keep an eye on Facebook for information about Easter Sunday All Age Worship with the Proclaim Puppets.

Angela

Also attached are some resources from World Vision to keep youngsters occupied and remind us that the whole world is being affected at this time.

Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Langley this week. This prayer has been composed by Mavis Nixon from Langley.

Palm Sunday Prayer

Let us pray together

In this strange world of coronavirus we pray for all who have contracted the disease and are suffering, for all the families who are grieving for loved ones lost because of this virus and the extra sadness caused as families cannot be together to say good-bye. We say thank you to all the nurses, doctors and carers looking after the sick and risking their own lives.

For all volunteer helpers who are delivering food and medicine to the elderly and infirm.

We thank you Lord for the daffodils and spring flowers brightening up the gardens and giving a sign of hope to us all.

Finally, we pray for all our Church members throughout the Circuit and this week especially for Langley. The members who are missing our Sunday services, coffee mornings etc. and pray that the joy and companionship we all experience in our church will soon be part of our lives again.

Mavis Nixon

Members' voice

Teaching in the age of Covid-19

Anna Hazel

I have been teaching in secondary schools for 12 years through many Ofsted inspections, a bomb scare, Swine flu, exam panics, and more, but these past few weeks have been the toughest to date by far and have taken an emotional and physical toll on all of us working in schools. The pivotal moment was Wednesday 18th March at 5pm when the announcement came that schools would close at end of school that Friday until further notice. I watched the announcement with a couple of colleagues in disbelief; although we knew something was coming, the reality hit home. That evening, there was so much to worry about: pupil welfare, exams, safety of vulnerable pupils, home learning, free school meals, and, and, and... On top of the concerns about my school, I am also Chair of the Governors at a primary school, so needed to be involved with what was happening there too, as well as keeping on top of the daily email briefings being issued by Cheshire East. I went in to the primary school before school on the Thursday morning to speak with the staff and thank them for their amazing work to continue the work of the school; or at least that was the plan, but emotion overcame me and someone else had to take over reading the words I had prepared.

Once the news settled, our amazing school team moved into action mode, collating lists of the pupils who needed most safeguarding support, making sure students had access to the internet at home, repurposing school laptops to be on long term loan to families without, making sure paper booklets were ready to distribute, training ourselves and each other to use new online learning tools. There was also the important question of how to mark what would almost certainly be Year 11's last day, which was hastily put together with the usual shirt signing and a special assembly (not sitting on adjacent seats). Our Year 11 students behaved impeccably through it all despite the uncertainty of their exams and the postponement of the all-important prom.

Schools are not quite closed, of course, since we are running a skeleton service to keep key workers working by providing their childcare and looking after the most vulnerable children in our care. In most schools this now seems to have reduced to less than 5% of the children on roll and staff covering their care on a day-by-day rota basis. I found it very strange to leave the house to go to work for my day on duty in 'lockdown' mode, but once I was there, enjoyed the time with the children, starting the day with a Joe Wickes YouTube fitness workout, helping them with some school work and then going on a treasure hunt walk later in the day and the good weather made it all seem better. The children are getting better at remembering, but do still need reminding about the '2m rule' which is so unnatural for all of us, but particularly for children.

The home learning seems to be working well, and we can interact in the online learning platforms with students and mark their work which they can send to us by taking a photo of it on a phone. We are contacting all of our families at least once a fortnight, and the most vulnerable are getting a call every day. The situation with exams is becoming clearer though

still not fully resolved. My children are generally entering into the home learning idea with good humour, as well as family projects to plant seeds and an accidentally captured caterpillar to care for, and enjoyed 'virtual Sunday School' last Sunday. Governor meetings will proceed via video conferencing, and email exchanges. A wise fellow governor said that we will settle into a 'new normal' and it feels that we are heading there.

One thing I have found helpful through all of this is my book of Lent readings from Tearfund. The entry from Sunday 22nd March particularly struck a chord, here is an extract, and the full version can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g42AFvutBLk> as well as the full booklet at https://assets.website-files.com/5c6c32d1dd4d797f8d92b522/5e4d87ac29119705a247f21c_Lent_Devotionals_TF_USA.pdf.

'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.' (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Love

...So of all the sorrow and the loneliness,
All of the anger and bitterness
and confusion and brokenness
will be outflanked, outdone,
outmatched and overcome
by love.

Gideon Heugh

Circuit Facebook page

For the latest information on what is happening within the circuit, follow....

<https://www.facebook.com/MacclefieldCircuit/>

Please don't forget....

'Telling the Easter Story from Home' - an idea to help us to reflect on the events of Holy Week and Easter and to share these with each other. The idea is to use items from your garden or around the home to depict the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Take a photograph and we will share these around the Circuit. You could do one day at a time or an arrangement of the whole week.

Please send your photos to Graham on graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk

Scam Warning

Sadly, some people are trying to take advantage of the current situation for all the wrong reasons. The following is a scam we have been asked by our District to share....

Shared by Rev Cathy Bird:-

We have been informed by the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board of the following scam:

'Calls from somebody claiming to be from Public Health England, asking residents if they had received their letter from the government and then asking if they have support from family and friends, etc. and trying to obtain personal details'

Please be aware if you receive any unexpected communications.

Other important links

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

