



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

4th Issue: 19 April 2020

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,

I am worried about my hair. Now, I know you will read this and think "well, there's not much to worry about", and you are right (despite how offensive it is)! Nevertheless, I am worried. I am very protective of the few hairs I have left, but they seem they have a mind of their own. Unless I keep it quite short, it tends to grow outwards from the side of my head – the life of my hair grows in ways I don't understand and am not ready for!

As we move past Easter the stories of the resurrection appearances are full of surprises! The disciples encounter the life of Jesus and the growth of his Kingdom in ways they never expected and are not really ready for: the walk on the Emmaus road – Jesus shares the ordinary things of life with his friends and their eyes are opened! The appearances in the upper room - Jesus says to Thomas "if you need proof that I'm alive, here I am!" The barbeque on the beach – Jesus sits and eats with his friends, restoring and commissioning Peter! Even on the Road to Damascus – Jesus appears to Saul and changes everything about him! The Disciples encounter Christ and the life of the Kingdom in ways they never expected, and God continues his work.

In these next few weeks, I encourage you to keep your eyes and ears open, and be ready for a surprise as you encounter God. It may come in ways that you expect but more likely it won't! God always surprises us with life and love and grace! So be ready, and let that vision transform us!

C. S. Lewis wrote:

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

Let us see the world with Easter eyes!

with every blessing

Graham

Sunday 19 April 2020 – Low Sunday

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

<http://tiny.cc/2x94mz>

A slightly edited version will be on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/MacclefieldCircuit/>
And Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1PS5ox80YSZi71WMDHVmQ>

Children & Families

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, the passage from Roots this week is all about seeing (as well as touching, hearing etc.) to believe. We ourselves might be experiencing the lack of contact with people, as well as our regular routines, but we must continue to believe and have faith that life will return to normal again.

Into that Jesus speaks a message of peace. We hope in your worship time together this week you will experience that peace which Jesus offers.

Bible story, Activity sheet and colouring sheet are included.

Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Green Close this week. This prayer has been composed by Stephan Rudolfer from Green Close.

Let us pray together

Glorious, risen Lord Jesus, we worship you without coming too close. At this time of lockdown and self-isolation, we get some inkling of what your disciples must have gone through as they huddled together for safety and comfort after your death, and before you made your resurrection blindingly clear to them.

Lord, we thank you for your patience with the stupidity and unbelief of your disciples. We thank you for your patience with us when we doubt your love in the midst of such suffering as we observe at present. Please remember your children at Green Close, a tightly-knit and loving family of your disciples, who care for each other through thick and thin. Having experienced months of exile from our very own lovely chapel, we now have to experience further exile from communal services at Poynton. Be with those of us who have to self-isolate, those of us who are suffering from serious medical conditions, those of us who have to work with patients in hospital, without proper protective clothing, and those of us who are in residential or nursing homes.

We pray for all the NHS workers who daily put themselves at risk for the sake of their patients, for all carers who in many cases seem to be forgotten by the authorities, and for all the other key workers who keep us going in these very difficult times. We also pray for the Macclesfield circuit members who put together the online services, and help to keep the circuit sinews strong.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the power of prayer and the immediacy of telephone calls, by which we keep in contact. We look forward with faith to the coming of the day when we can meet together again as a family of love. Until that time, Lord, please sustain us, comfort us, and lead us into our promised land in Higher Poynton.

In Jesus' Name and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Members' voice

My Isolation Strategy

Like everybody all my normal activities suddenly disappeared. I live alone, and my contact with people face to face regularly at Church, Gym, Scrabble, Mah Jong, Choir, Band has stopped.

I have devised a way of coping which involves trying each day to do the following:

1. Phone somebody every day (so I don't forget how to talk!)
2. Do some gardening
3. Make up my own Pilates exercise session
4. Go for a short walk from home - social distancing means crossing the road sometimes but everyone has been very friendly
5. Play my clarinet
6. Do **one** "Isolation Job" - these are the things I always put off (clearing cupboards and drawers, cleaning windows, tidying greenhouse)
7. Learn something new -at the moment I'm trying to learn to sight sing!

One week in and it's worked so far - I'm ticking off the jobs!!!!

Monica Gent (Macclesfield)

Pastoral News

We are sorry to announce the death of Mr Frank Rathbone who passed away peacefully in his nursing home just before Easter, aged 99 years. There will be a private service (family only) on Tuesday 21st April 2.40pm at the crematorium, led by Revd's Graham and Helen. For those who knew Frank, if you would like to take a moment's reflection to remember Frank during the time of the service from your homes, that would be a lovely personal tribute. (Please note due to current national guidelines it is STRICTLY FAMILY ONLY at the crematorium). We hope to be able to have a Service of Celebration for his life later in the year at Macclesfield Methodist Church. We hold Margaret and Ian and their family and friends in our prayers at this time. Our dear soldier and brother in Christ is now at peace and we will remember him well.

Circuit Facebook page

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

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

Other important links

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

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