



# **MINI** MACCLESFIELD **MESSENGER**

**5<sup>th</sup> Issue: 26th 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 cut it. I know you will have been very concerned all week about my hair, well I cut it. I think it looks ok – from the front anyway, I can't see the back so I will have to make sure no one else does either. I will make sure I only allow people to see my best side!

We are often told to keep a “stiff upper lip”, not to let people see weakness or fragility – to let people see our “best side” and I am sure that is not healthy for us! Sometimes we allow that kind of thinking to invade the life of faith – some say we should never question God, never be angry with God, and never acknowledge our struggles with faith. Of course, I'm sure you know this isn't the way to a healthy faith! Think about the resurrection appearances, at the heart of them all Jesus disciples are honest with him! Mary weeps at the tomb, begs to be told what is going on and Jesus speaks her name. Thomas says he won't believe until he sees for himself and Jesus holds out his wounded hands to him. Peter says “I'm going fishing” when he doesn't know what else to do after his denial, and Jesus meets him on the beach, forgives and restores him. The two on the Emmaus road share all their disappointment and grief and Jesus sits and breaks bread with them. Jesus doesn't expect them to present their best side rather he comes to them, walks with them, sits with them, eats with them, and shows them his love. He will do the same for us too.

Micah 6 verse 8 “what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”. Walking humbly means being honest with God - about our struggles, our doubts, our fears and letting him minister his grace to us. So let's do justice, let's love kindness, but especially at this time in our world let's walk humbly and honestly with our God who loves us, who will not leave us, and we will find our way.

with every blessing

**Graham**

**Sunday 26 April 2020** – Morning worship & Evening prayers services led by Graham. Links below...

AM – <http://tiny.cc/rvxpnz>

Each Sunday evening we will offer a short service of evening prayer using Zoom at 6.30pm. Click the link below on a pc/tablet/smartphone and it will ask you to install the app if it is not already installed you can then access the service. Alternatively you can phone in using one of the numbers below. You will be muted on arrival in the meeting please don't unmute yourself.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88677436411>

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Dial by your location  
+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom  
+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom  
+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom  
+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom  
Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

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

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

### **Have you tried accessing the worship services via You Tube on your TV?**

It could be easier than you think! Try searching your Channel Guide for 'You Tube' or Sky customers – access You Tube from the 'Apps' section on a Sky Q box  
Virgin Media V+ box – You Tube is channel number 198  
BT TV – use the 'Home' settings and scroll through.

Once on You Tube, search 'Macclesfield Methodist Circuit'

### **Services coming up.....**

3 May - led by Helen  
10 May - led by Ros

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## **Children & Families**

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, the passage from Roots this week is focussed on the story of the road to Emmaus.

Online clip, bible story, activity sheet and colouring sheet are included.

**Angela**

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**Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Macclesfield this week. This prayer has been composed by Ian Wardle from Macclesfield.**

### **Let us pray together**

In these unprecedented times, we pray for all those throughout the world affected in any way by the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those who are ill, those in care homes, those who have lost loved ones and for the NHS, the doctors, nurses and medical staff who are doing so much to help those who are suffering and those most in need and at risk from this virus.

We give thanks also for all the volunteers who have come forward to assist in the massive effort to minimize the suffering caused by the virus, and pray for all those feeling lonely and isolated.

We pray for the young people across our Circuit. Please keep them safe and well through these times of social isolation. Thank you for all their contributions to the very uplifting and

encouraging All Age Easter Worship Service and thank you for Angela and the wonderful work she does among children and families within our Circuit and beyond.

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## Members' voice

At this difficult time, it is hard to keep oneself entertained but we must try to hold on to our sense of humour. So, in a not very serious vein, here are ten things to do to keep your mind and body active.

1. Switch on the TV or radio news and listen for the word "coronavirus". Then switch off. This should take about 3 seconds.
2. Get out all your holiday photos and ask yourself "why on earth did I take that?". Discard those for which you have no reasonable answer (at least 50%).
3. Count the number of toilet rolls you have in stock. (This may take some time).
4. On a sunny day, peg out a load of washing on the line, then sit back and watch it dry. (Try not to get too excited doing this).
5. With the closure of our churches, try to name the last five ministers at your church, including the present one.
6. Go on the internet and try to find a charity that collects surplus charity bags.
7. Watch a programme on TV described as a "Celebrity Special" and try to identify any of the participants.
8. Go through the pots and packets of spices in your kitchen and throw out all those more than two years past their use-by date. (90%?)
9. If you are feeling energetic, dust the skirting boards.
10. Finally, if you are feeling very energetic, dust the tops of the door frames.

Keep smiling.

**Keith Thompson (Poynton)**

### ***Could you write the next article?***

We are looking to feature a contribution each week from a member of the congregation who would be willing to tell us what they are doing during these strange times – what are you watching/reading/making? Any tips to share with others? It would be lovely to hear from you – please email [macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com)

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## Contact Details

### ***For Children & Families***

Angela Bourne

Tel: 07901 777506

Email: [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com)

### ***Ministers***

Rev Graham Edwards

Tel: 01625 426051

Email: [graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto:graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk)

Rev Helen Byrne

Tel: 01625 572259

Email: [helenmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:helenmethodist@gmail.com)

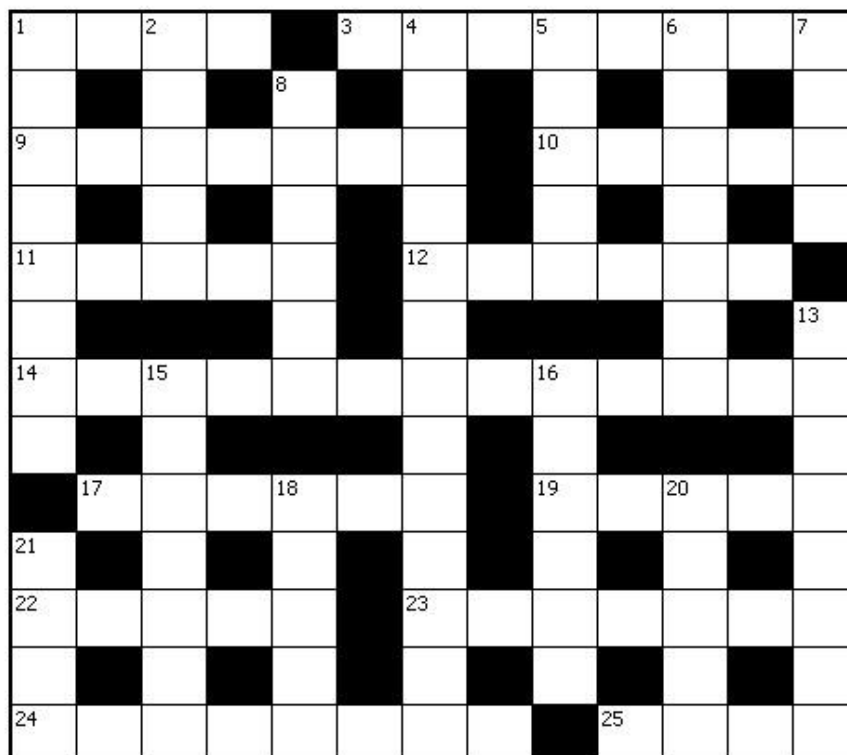
Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

Email: [ros.watson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:ros.watson@methodist.org.uk)

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## Just for fun!



### Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)  
 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)  
 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)  
 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)  
 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)  
 12 Listen (anag.) (6)  
 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)  
 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)  
 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)  
 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)  
 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)  
 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)  
 25 Note (anag.) (4)

### Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)  
 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)  
 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)  
 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)  
 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)  
 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)  
 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)  
 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)  
 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)  
 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)  
 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)  
 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)  
 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

## **Circuit Facebook page**

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

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

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## **Other important links**

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

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

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### ***Crossword answers***

#### **ACROSS**

1 Dare, 3 Cherubim, 9 Son Tohu, 10 Yield, 11 Ranch, 12 Enlist, 14 Baalah of Judah, 17 Edward, 19 Sheol, 22 Media, 23 Open air, 24 Apostasy, 25 Eton

#### **DOWN**

1 Describe, 2 Run in, 4 Household gods, 5 Royal, 6 Blessed, 7 MIDI, 8 Joshua, 13 Children, 15 Added to, 16 Jasper, 18 Await, 20 Exalt, 21 YMCA