



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

7<sup>th</sup> Issue: 10 May 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 'Mini Messenger' to others who may find it of interest.**

## A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

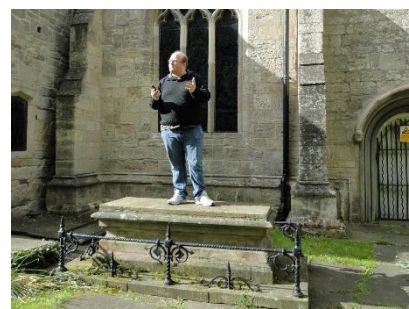
I made a cake! The photo is to prove that it existed as I am afraid it is no more, but it was a good cake, despite the front looking better than the back! Now, I know many of you will say "so what - I make cakes every week!" Well, I think this is about the third cake I can remember making! I have never had the time, or perhaps never made the time to do it. In a strange way the lockdown we are experiencing has allowed some good things to emerge – that isn't to say it is a good thing, or that it isn't very demanding, just that even in this difficult time good things can still be found. It might be making a cake, or it might be something else! The lockdown has forced us to realise how much we value human contact, how much we need each other,



how important the life of the church is, it has made us value the opportunity to walk in the towns and villages we live in, it has allowed families to spend time together in ways that would perhaps not have happened before, it has made us learn new skills, forced us to experiment with different technology and on and on! In an even bigger sense it has allowed us to slow down and consider the world we live in – the greed and materialism that has surrounded us, the poverty that has often been unseen or ignored, and to ask; do we really want to go back to those things? In an even bigger sense, the planet has had space to breathe, as industry and traffic and all of that slowed down, so has the pollution!

Despite all this, the covid19 pandemic is a frightening, challenging thing, and thousands of people are grieving loved ones because of it. But those good things we see tell us that somehow God is still at work. In the mess of this world God is at work. It should not really be a surprise – throughout the Old Testament God leads and guide the Israelites even when they make a mess of things. In the incarnation Jesus is born into the mess of the world, he dies on a cross surrounded by the mess of misunderstanding, failure, and denial. The Holy Spirit is given to a church who did not really know how to be church and argued about the way they should live! God is always at work in the mess of the world – sometimes we see it and sometimes we do not! So, look for God at work; see the signs of God's presence and find the space to say, "thank you"!

Saying "thank you" to God can be a powerful thing, it can bear witness to his love in a broken world and that has amazing power - but finding the space to do it can be challenging. In 1742 John Wesley was banned from preaching in Epworth Parish church, the church where his father had been Rector. It seemed that there was no space for him to proclaim God's goodness to the crowds who longed to hear. However, he realised that his family owned the land in which his father's body was buried and so he preached from the tomb! If you look hard enough you can always find space to tell of God's goodness! Wesley wrote: 'Accordingly at six I came, and found such a congregation as I believe Epworth never saw before...I stood near the east end of the church, upon my father's tomb stone and cried, 'The kingdom of heaven is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and



peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.' The picture here is of a much younger me preaching from that very tomb (as Methodist ministers who visit Epworth are prone to do!)

At the end of his life John Wesley's final words were reported as "the best of all is God is with us". The same is true today: God is with us still! So, look and listen for the signs of God's presence in the world. Bake a cake, go for a walk, sing a hymn – and tell the world God is with us!

With every blessing

**Graham**

**DIAL IN TO LISTEN TO THIS SUNDAY MORNING'S SERVICE, LED BY ROS - 01625 786345 (Available from 10am Sun 10th May)**

**Sunday 10 May 2020, start of Christian Aid Week** – Morning worship led by Ros & Richard Baker. Link below...

**AM** - <http://tiny.cc/caid>

**PM** - 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 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 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/UCh1PS5ox80YSZi71WMDHVmQ>

**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.....**

17 May AM – led by Graham

24 May AM – led by Helen

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**Keep collecting!**

One thing we can't do as part of the online services is the offertory. Our churches still have expenditure though and if you give by standing order, these continue to help with expenses at this time, but if you use the weekly gift aid envelopes or would normally give what you can on a Sunday morning please consider how you can keep doing this whilst we are not meeting at church. Contact your church treasurer – there are options available and they can discuss these including setting up standing orders with you. And if you like to physically put something aside each Sunday morning, why not find a special pot at home to use to pop your collection in each week after you've watched the service?

## Children & Families

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, this week we focus on Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week is an annual event across the UK, a door to door fundraising drive takes place by the Christian Aid charity. Thousands of people take to the streets to post red collection envelopes to houses up and down the country. Today is the beginning of Christian Aid Week. Like many church activities at the moment, Christian Aid Week is being done differently and digitally this year.

Christian Aid is a charity who work with 700 local organisations around 50 countries in the world. They help poor communities and enable them to deal with hardships, from climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also help with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities.

Clips, songs and activity sheets attached. **Angela**

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**Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Walker Barn this week. This prayer has been composed by Janet Dean.**

*Walker Barn stopped their services a week before others in the Circuit. It had an older congregation and several with health issues, so it was felt safer. We have not therefore, come together in worship for nearly two months now. We maintain telephone contact, but again only two people have internet. However, from the beginning of this month I am printing out a copy of mini messenger, and I am posting it to those without access. Best wishes to all in the Circuit.*  
Janet Dean

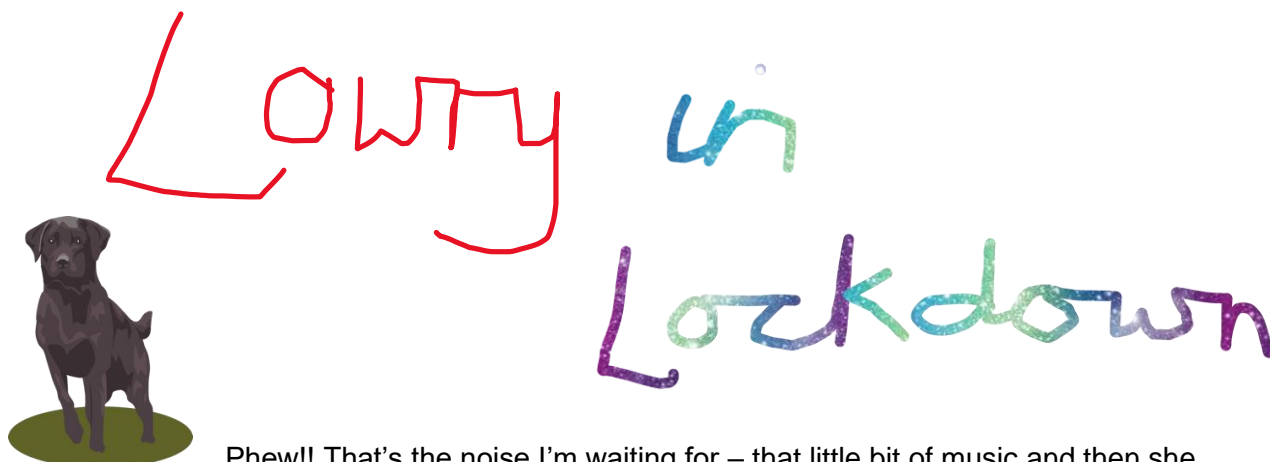
**Let us pray together for Walker Barn and it's congregation**

God of the Ages,  
You are unchanging  
Your love is unending  
Your wisdom is unsurpassed  
You, who are greater than time and space:  
Hold us in this very instant in the palm of your hands. Stay so close to us now, for we cannot hold one another. Do not let loneliness overtake us  
Give us wisdom and courage and strength  
To believe, though we cannot see  
To imagine, though we cannot feel  
To trust, though uncertainty surrounds us.  
Let that feeling of distance between us now  
Be transformed into gratitude, forgiveness, peace  
For all that has filled in those empty places  
And all that will continue to carry us  
Until we are in one another's embrace once again.  
We ask this through the brother you gave to us  
So that we might see that nothing can separate us from your love, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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## Members' voice - By Nicky Campbell, Macclesfield



Phew!! That's the noise I'm waiting for – that little bit of music and then she starts to move. I'll just go and stand close to her. "Morning Lowry, " she says in a funny sort of voice. Then she says, "Just give me a minute." She looks at that funny screen thing and then she sits up. I wish I could understand why it takes her so long to get ready. She puts on different clothes and it take AGES.....

Eventually, she comes downstairs, opens the curtains and puts on her coat that matches mine. We both wear black with furry bits. I think that's nice of her that she wants to look like me. I wear an extra red bit and my lead then, we're off.

Along the path, across the road and then....ooooo....lovely new smell. Good sniff and then a quick lift of my leg to show it's my territory. On a bit. Wait, stop, another really good smell and another. We're on the main road now. Can't help noticing how quiet it is. Where are all those huge noisy lorries? Right, I think here's the perfect place for a quick squat. That feels better. Question I've always asked myself, though – why does she always collect what I try to leave behind? She really must love me.

We keep going. Lots of stops for good smells. Haven't seen any other dogs and only one other human. Think they mumbled "Morning". Better go a bit faster. I'm hungry. Wonder what's for breakfast today.

Our house at last. She has to take my coat and her coat off. My feet are dry, so I won't have to do that balance on three legs thing. Lovely sound as she puts my breakfast in my dish.



Lamb and rice. Yum yum. How fast can I eat it? Ok. Gone! Now can I have my treats? A sausage and some chewy bits. Delicious. Need to lie on the rug in the lounge to eat them.

What's next? I think she might come and cuddle me. She's been doing that a lot recently. Now what? Sound of running water. Think I'll stay clear of that. A nap sounds a good idea. Lovely dream. So exciting – in the car. I do so love going in the car. I was visiting Uncle Bob and Auntie Alicia. We went out for a long time. I could run up and down very steep bits and suddenly, the very best bit. The smell was so divine. Probably fox poo, so I rolled in it. Glorious – another roll. Not sure why they were all shouting. Bet they wanted to roll in it too. Then, even more joy – a river. I had a lovely swim. Bit cold, but I'm designed for cold water. They were near the river, so I jumped out and ran to them. I had to tell them how good it felt, so I shook myself as near to them as I could get – to share the joy. I had to go back in then, so I did that a few times. Eventually we walked along the river and then we had to go back up a steep slope. I was getting a bit tired, so I only ran up and down a few times, while I waited for them. When we got back to the car I had to be rubbed down with my towel and stay on my bed for a bit. It was such a good day I hope it was real and not just a dream.

Think I'll look out of the window for a bit. It's just a human walking past. I don't need to panic. Keep calm, I think there's a dog with the human. Keep CALM. KEEP CALM. KEEP CALM. Well that should stop them going anywhere near my house again.

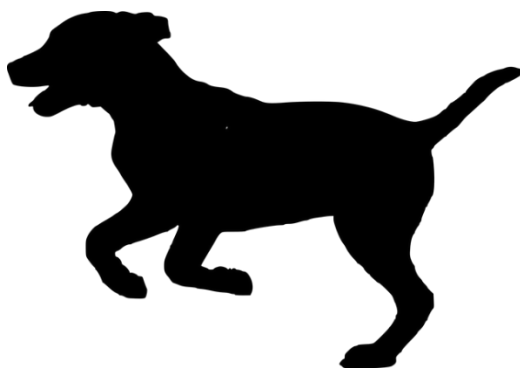
I do believe she just looked at that thing on her arm. Then she looked at me. I know what that means. We're off out again. Hooray. There might be new smells. We might meet humans. They might stroke me. They might even give me FOOD. Home again. We saw another human, but they didn't cross the road. They had a shouted conversation. Very odd. I don't understand what's going on. I was very good, though, so I asked for a treat when we got home. Of course she gave me one.

She had her lunch. I don't get lunch. No idea why. I could eat lunch..... and afternoon tea, and dinner and supper.... Mustn't think that far ahead. Now we're going to have more fun. She's sitting at that thing that makes music and I can sing along. I love singing. She says I sing beautifully. I think I'm getting better at it. I can sing quite a few different notes now. It's a shame she doesn't play exactly the notes I'm singing, but she'll get better at it too..

Think I need another nap. Just woke up. Beginning to feel very hungry. I'll try reminding her that teatime is quite soon. "No", she said. "Not yet". Ok. Wait. Be patient. Big hole in tummy. Starving. Think my clock says 5 o'clock now. I'll try again. I'll lick my lips then she'll know for sure what I want. "Bang on 5 o'clock" she says, smiling. More lamb and rice. Lovely. Managed that quickly too. Now I can go out in the garden. Dash round to the side gate to see if anything is happening. All very quiet again. I'll just try a quick shout because there's a human in a garden. Now I'll have to go in. I only wanted to talk to someone.....

Now she's looking at that big bright picture in the corner. Think she said it has something called programmes on it. Nope, no idea what that is. It's something called Animal Park. She asks me if I remember the man on it. No idea what she's talking about, but she says that he once threw what I thought was a ball into the sea and of course I chased it. What else do you do if someone throws a ball? I couldn't find it, so I just kept swimming, looking for it. It was really lovely. Then I heard a whistle, so I thought I had better go back. The water was very deep and rather bumpy. Everyone was very pleased to talk to me when I got back. I had to shake for a long time, because I was very wet. I thought the water tasted funny. Apparently, the man, called Ben Fogle, supposedly saved my life. A bit dramatic, I thought, but these humans are strange. I Didn't recognise the man, anyway.

I'm getting tired now, so I'll just go and remind her that it's nearly bedtime. I get a bit of supper, a chance to nip out into the garden and a chewy toothbrush. At long last, all the lights are out and there's total silence. Which of us is that, snoring??



***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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## Year of Testimony: Sharing Our Story

It has been good to share the story of God in our lives with each other during our services this year. We all benefit from hearing each other's testimonies and so we would like to continue this during our online services. So, if you would like to share your experiences of God during this time please make a recording and send it to Graham. Or, if you would prefer, contact Graham and he will record you via Zoom.

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### Poem

#### SUNDAY IN LOCKDOWN

Sunday has always been special!  
it is the first day of the week.  
when we gather at the chapel  
and there, together seek  
to worship God our saviour,  
sing His praise and read his word.  
But today the chapel's empty  
and His voice cannot there be heard.  
and so we gather singly  
around our various screens,  
and find by listening carefully  
the comfort that we need.  
As Graham reads the scriptures  
and with words bold and clear  
he speaks God's love and tells us,  
to take courage and not fear.  
For the Risen Christ is with us  
And shares all that we face,  
And we feel the love of others  
and the blessings of God's grace.  
For not confined in churches,  
God is present where we are,  
And binds us altogether,  
with the wondrous love we share

**Sheila Bishop**

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#### Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA)

MHA have made a short film for the VE Day commemoration featuring Theo Eaves, local preacher from Poynton. Watch via the link below...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhiaGV3FpbM&feature=youtu.be>

#### Knitters wanted

If you knit, or know someone who does, and would like to support MHA during the Covid-19 outbreak, please contact Rev Kate Le Sueur at [kate.lesueur@mha.org.uk](mailto:kate.lesueur@mha.org.uk)

A [FREE phone service](#) to hear prayers and news from the **Methodist Church** has been launched.

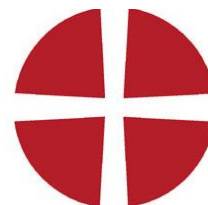


**FREE** phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a **prayer**: 0808 281 2514

Listen to **news**: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon



Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown? The **Church of England** have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

### **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>

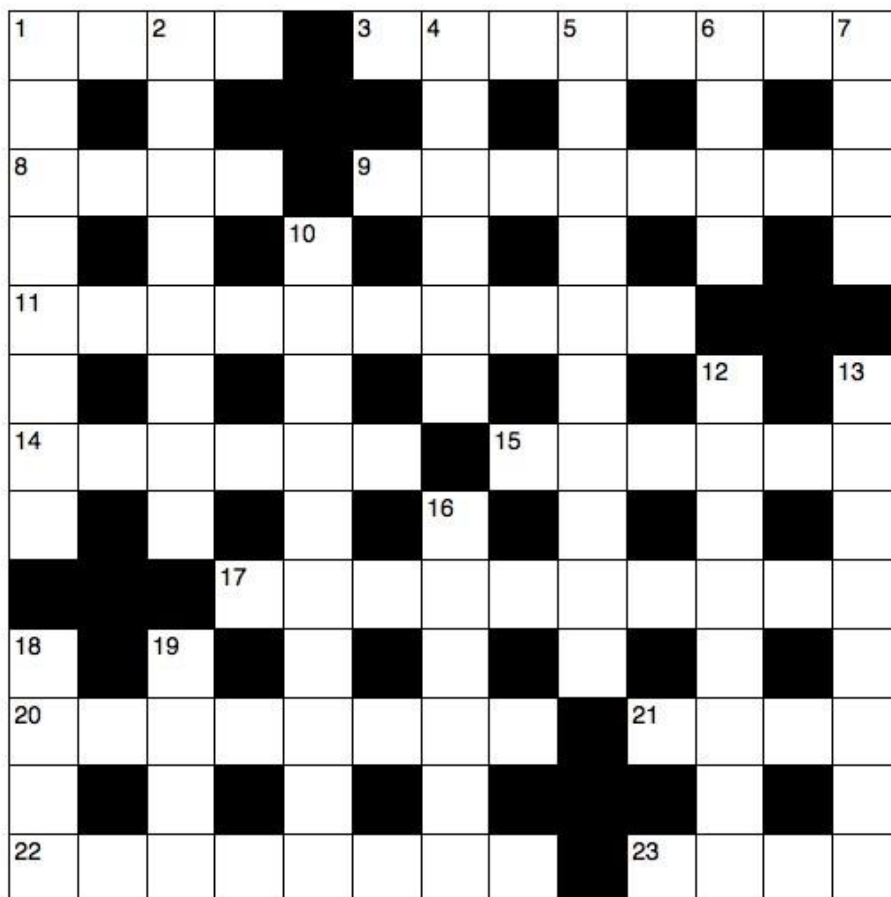
### **Message from Rev Dr Roger Walton (Former President of Conference):-**

A Methodist Way of Life commitment card is available online at

[www.methodistchurch.org.uk/MWoL](http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/MWoL).

Many people are downloading and finding it useful in this current situation.

## Just for fun!



### Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

### Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)



## Fancy baking? CHURCH WINDOW CAKE or BATTENBURG

Rather like the chicken & the egg, which came first is unclear, Church Window Cake or Battenburg, but what is certain is that the cake has appeared frequently in British recipe books over the last two centuries. The finished cake resembles a church stained glass window and although the Prussian village of Battenburg may have played a part in the origins of the cake, it is nonetheless a firm favourite on the traditional English tea table – just ask Mr Kipling!!



Very decorative and for almond lovers, a real treat, the Church Window Cake just requires a little artistic patience, but is well worth the effort. It is a pretty two-coloured sponge cake with the strips of cake sandwiched together in a chequerboard effect. There is a pink layer above a white using four equally sized strips of sponge and the finished cake is wrapped in an outer layer of almond paste.

175g/6oz butter  
175g/6oz caster sugar  
3 large eggs, lightly beaten  
175g/6oz self raising flour  
A little red food colouring

**Topping**  
275g/10oz almond paste  
A little warmed jam

Preheat the oven to 160C/325F/Gas Mark 3.

The easiest way to prepare the mixture is to use one tin, baking the two colour sponges alongside each other.

Cream the butter and sugar together until light & fluffy, then add the eggs and flour, a little at a time, beating until completely smooth.

Grease & line a 18cm/7inch square cake tin and spoon half of the mixture into the left side, then add a little red food colouring to the remaining sponge mix and stir thoroughly. Spoon the pink mixture into the other half of the tin and smooth gently. Bake in the oven for approximately 30 to 35 minutes or until firm when lightly pressed in the centre.

Carefully turn out of the tin onto a wire rack and leave to cool.

When cold, trim the edges of the cake and divide it equally into 4 long sections, which will give you two strips of each colour.

Using a little warmed jam, place one of each colour on the bottom and the remaining two on top alternating the colours to give a chequerboard effect.

Roll the marzipan out thinly into oblong, using the cake as a measurement for length. Spread a thin layer of jam over the marzipan then roll it around the block of sponge, sealing it with a little more jam. Trim the edges neatly at each end.

Place in onto a plate with the 'seam' underneath and lightly mark the top in the traditional crisscross pattern. Take a photo and send it to us to show next week!!

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**Did anyone try the recipe from last week or have you been making something else?**

**Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!  
email: [macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com)**

## Christian Aid Week

# Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.



<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

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### Contact Details

#### *For Children & Families*

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Rev Ros Watson

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### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

**DOWN:** 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.

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