



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

6th Issue: 3 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 this 'Mini Messenger' to others within the church community who may find it of interest.

A message from the Superintendent



Dear Friends,

This is Jabez, my Syrian Hamster. In case you were wondering he is named after Jabez Bunting who was a Wesleyan Methodist Minister and President of Conference in the Nineteenth Century! If you are really bored during lockdown you could read about him! He held a lot of power in the church and in fact held most of the "big" offices in the church of his day! My Jabez is equally powerful. He is a good hamster, as hamsters go, but he has learned how to get my attention. If the water level in his bottle is too low for his liking, he will simply bang on it until I come and fill it.

If he decides he wants to come out he stands by door of the cage looking mournful and occasionally chewing the bars until I come and let him out. If I am making too much noise he will stand on his back legs and stare disapprovingly at me! He has realised that there is someone outside his cage, he cannot always see me, but he knows I am there and is not afraid to communicate with me!

We know there is someone beyond us, we can't always see him, but we know he is there – we feel God's presence, his power, see his influence and we know somewhere deep down within us that God is there. In these strange days it can be hard to pray, because our lives have been changed, we aren't meeting in churches to pray, we are feeling the strain of lockdown and finding the words for prayer can be a challenge. But God is still here, listening to us, providing for us and loving us – we might need to find new ways of communicating. A bit like Jabez we might need to bang on the water bottle to chew the bars (not literally!) because God by the mystery of grace will respond to us. Martin Luther said, "prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon". Prayer will help us find our place, and our way through these strange times, it will help us to hold on to faith in God and in each other and it will ground us in all we do! More than that perhaps, it will re-affirm that thing we know deep in our souls – that God is with us, and for us! I was sent the image above a few weeks ago, like the girl in that story there are still times when we cannot find the ways to pray, but even then, God hears and understands. So, pray in the house, in the garden, on a walk or wherever you like! Pray with words, by repeating the alphabet, with feelings, in silence, through music or images – pray! And know the truth of that response often said in church:

The Lord hears our prayer
Thanks be to God!

A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained: 'I'm praying, but I can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me because He knows what I'm thinking.'

with every blessing
Graham

Sunday 3 May 2020 – Morning worship led by Helen & evening prayer services led by Graham. Links below...

AM - <http://tiny.cc/easter4>

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.....

10 May - led by Ros – Christian Aid Sunday

17 May – led by Graham

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, today's Bible story is John 10: 1-10 – Jesus tells us he is like a shepherd, he loves and protects us, so we can live a full happy life.

Video about Jesus, The Good Shepherd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pu7L0ZwAJ0o>

Make a sheep pen & other activities included with this email.

Angela

Live Messy Church is coming!! - Saturday 9th May 2pm-3pm

Get your pens, paper and snacks ready – for more information, contact Angela – methodistfamilies@gmail.com

Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Prestbury this week. This prayer has been composed by Ruth Jackson from Prestbury.

Let us pray together

Father God we give thanks for our Church family at Prestbury. Although we cannot meet at the moment we are thankful for Roger and Dave who are producing Pews News weekly and also to Rev Helen for all her input and help with printing and posting.

We give thanks for all who are expert in the use of technology which means we can share in worship. We ask for your guidance and help in continuing to produce Pews News week by week. We ask that you will bless all those who take part in our services either on line or in print.

Especially we pray for those in our membership who are ill at this time and those who have family members working in hospitals. We also pray for all who live alone and ask that you will give them strength to cope and through the weekly news from Church help them to feel surrounded by your love. We give thanks for our pastoral visitors who are helping those who cannot go out and ask that you will keep them safe and well.

Above all we give thanks that there is no situation, no experience that is beyond your power and presence. We praise you for the new life that Jesus Christ has made possible.

We bring all our prayers to you in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen

Members' voice

Teen In Quarantine - by Hannah (year 10)

Life in quarantine is definitely different to what I expected. I have no way to see my friends without calling or texting them, the only time I go outside is to walk my dog and all of my school work is done on my own schedule. And honestly, it's brilliant. I love my friends, but it's exhausting to constantly talk to them. This way, I only talk to them when it's convenient for me. I know it sounds selfish, but in some ways it's my ideal situation right now. My school schedule has changed quite a bit. Most of the time I've finished working by mid afternoon and then the day is my own. It's mostly set online, various on-going tasks I must complete throughout quarantine. The only downside is when teachers arrange video calls, despicable

things that mean I actively have to participate in the lesson instead of just copying down a few notes. If you are one of those teachers your end of year report from me will be significantly disappointing, I can assure you of that.

As for going outside, besides the occasional trip to my back garden, a simple walk around the block sounds almost idyllic. That is until you see the dog I'm walking, a tiny Terrier crossed with a Labrador and determined to make my life an absolute misery. She screams at the top of her lungs whenever she sees another creature, whether that be bird, dog or indeed a human baby. Delilah (yes that is our dog's name, I too think it ridiculous) drags me down the hill, then demands to be carried back up by me. I am getting more exercise in just one dog walk than I used to with a week's worth of gym. That being said, my excessive binge eating should ensure that my desired body is nothing more than a fantasy at the end of quarantine. My parents have taken steps to prevent me becoming morbidly obese by the end of this, which including rationing my chocolate intake to two bars a day and hiding the nutella. What a cruel world I live in. However, throughout this whole ordeal, the thing that keeps me going is the knowledge that every other teenager will emerge from quarantine looking exactly like me, and that is pale and in need of a trip to slimming world. That's all I have time to say right now, I'm booked for two hours of binge watching Netflix and I just can't cancel on my sister again. Stay positive and keep eating. It'll help my self esteem.



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

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.

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

We've planted lots of seeds,
and the garden's free of weeds.
we've mowed the lawn,
and scarified the moss.
we've hoovered, even dusted!
Cleared out a cupboard or two,
thrown away what's rusted-
Now what's next to do?

Well I've a jigsaw waiting
lent me by friend,
and some knitting on the go
So I shan't go round the bend,
and I want to finish 'Middlemarch'
Which is quite a hefty tome!
So it's not as bad as I had thought,
this having to STAY AT HOME!

Sheila Bishop

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

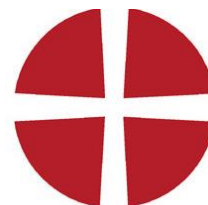


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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/>

Other important links

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

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

Just for fun!

Psalms 23

A P N K W G
X D X E P L L E W D
O K K S W A E F P D R R
U H T A E D T T W R S A R E E L
U D O R I G H T E O U S N E S S I
Y C R E M L E A D D T E O H T U V
Z J L Y E L L A V A S N I P O O E
I I H N I B F B H A D N E R H
O L E T A O L S P O T H E
I P G S T R O F M O C S P
J W A T E R F J G E G
G M I V D A H J P
A E Q T L
R R S
V

anoint	Lord	staff
comfort	mercy	still
death	oil	table
dwell	pasture	valley
enemies	path	water
evil	restore	
forever	righteousness	
goodness	rod	
house	shadow	
lead	Shepherd	

Fancy baking?

If you have flour and some spare time, why not give this a go?

Goosnargh Cakes

Goosnargh, a village near Preston, lends it name to these caraway and coriander flavoured cakes, which were made in never ending quantities for the Easter and Whitsun holidays. Traditionally eaten with ale, Goosnargh cakes with their very high butter content, spicy flavour and topping of dredged sugar, closely resemble shortbread. Although no longer made in vast amounts, they can still be bought from several bakers in the area.

450g/1lb plain flour
1 teaspoon coriander
350g/12oz butter
75g/3oz caster sugar
Half teaspoon caraway seeds

Preheat the oven to 150C/300F/Gas Mark 2.

Sift the flour and coriander into a bowl. Rub in the butter, working it with your fingertips until a soft dough is formed.

Roll out dough to 5mm/quarter inch thick and cut into 7.5cms/3 inch rounds. Sprinkle the tops with sugar and caraway seeds.

Lift onto a greased baking tray and cook in the centre of the oven for 30 to 40 minutes until firm but still pale. The cakes should not brown.

Lift carefully from the baking sheet and leave to cool on a wire rack.

Perfect to enjoy with a coffee or tea whilst watching the Sunday morning service!

Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!

Waste not, want not?

In a bid to ensure we don't use the shops any more than is necessary and ensure nothing gets wasted we have been checking our cupboards to see what we have and discovered an (hmm!), slightly out of date tin of peaches – what do we do with it? On opening, they looked and tasted just like any other so they ended up as most fruit should - in a trifle!!

But what else could we have made with them? Has anyone got any suggestions? (especially as we found another tin!)

Have you been cleaning out cupboards? Have you found any unusual ingredients or items you don't know what to do with? Let us know - we can have a weekly challenge to suggest ways!

email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

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