



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

10th Issue: 31 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,

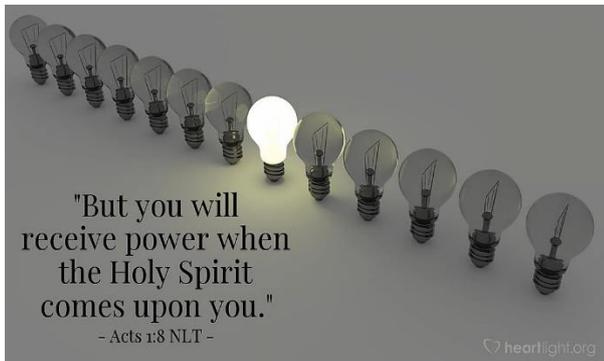
My first car was a 1988 Mark II Volkswagen Golf. Sadly, the only picture I have of it is after it was stolen and crashed! I was in a prayer meeting and heard the characteristic whine of its ignition and thought "that sounds a bit like my car", as it turned out, it was.



I'd only had the car for about 6 months, in that time the throttle and clutch cables snapped, I found rust in the wheel arches and pillars, and the dashboard lights failed! The steering was so heavy it felt like driving a tank, and the driver's seat was falling apart. It's fair to say that by the time it came to me, this car had long since seen its best days! And yet, there are times when I think back to that car longingly, wishing I could drive it again! The car I have now is superior in every way, but occasionally I think I'd like that old one instead!

Nostalgia is a funny thing, sometimes we imagine the past to be wonderful. That isn't to say that sometimes it wasn't, but nostalgia can make us think it was far better than it actually was! More than that, nostalgia can make us miss the gift of the present moment in which we live. In the years I have been in ministry I have had countless conversations about the past, and I enjoy hearing the stories. There are times though, when I hear stories about how great the church used to be, and I wonder. The minister who used to visit every member once a week, the preacher who could go on for three hours and you wished it would never end, the choir whose heavenly music lifted you to paradise, only sang hymns and anthems you knew and filled the church to standing room only! I hear those stories and I wonder. Perhaps it was like that and perhaps it wasn't, but I wonder when we focus on those things too much, if we are in danger of missing what God is doing among us now. In the next few months the church will be different from how it was, and there may be times for us all (if there haven't already been) when we look back with nostalgia to a different time, and a different kind of church. That's ok – but in those moments let's not miss what God is doing in us, through us and among us!

As I write this to you, Pentecost Sunday is fast approaching – the wonderful story from Acts where we see the gift of the Holy Spirit given to God's people. But take a step back, to Acts 1, Jesus is eating with his apostles when they ask "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus replies, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit



comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The apostles wonder about the future, they try to make sense of it, and Jesus says "there are some things you cannot know now" ... but, you will receive power when the Spirit comes!

We may well find ourselves looking back with nostalgia to a different time, we may well find ourselves asking difficult questions. "Will it be like it was? When can I see my family and friends? When can we meet together in church again? What will the church be like when we come back? and so on. Perhaps the answer for us is found in Jesus' words - there are some things we can't know ... but ... we will receive power when the Spirit comes upon us!

So, in the weeks and even the months ahead, look back, ask questions, wonder – but don't miss what God is doing. Because the God who sent power at Pentecost, is the God we worship and the God who offers that same power to us – here and now, today! God is still at work, and we are part of it!

With every blessing,
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, this week we focus on Pentecost, with the Church welcoming the Holy Spirit. Activity sheets attached.

Don't forget....

Messy Church Live - Saturday 20th June 2-3pm. Please make a diary note!!

Angela

Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Langley (prepared by Derek McBryde)

Let us pray together

As we celebrate Pentecost, let us remember God's purpose and plan in sending His Spirit, not just for our personal lives but for the salvation of the peoples of the world. "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea". (Habakkuk 2:14)

Celebrations are a time of looking back and giving thanks for joys and lessons learned. They are also a time for looking forward with hope for the future. So, we would pray: "God of our past and our future, we look to you today for hope. The future is uncertain, and we wonder what it will bring. As with the disciples that first day at Pentecost, fill us with a vision for what we could be. May we walk boldly into what may come, as people not only of faith, but of hope.

As we continue through the current difficult times – political, social, economic, we pray for all who are sick. We pray for families who are grieving for loved ones; for the sadness and despair as families cannot be together to comfort or to say good-bye. We pray for those in nursing homes, especially those suffering from dementia, who feel abandoned and cannot understand why no one comes to see them anymore.

We give thanks for everyone, in whatever capacity, who cares for others. We give thanks for all essential workers in schools, shops, businesses, transport who are keeping us going under these challenging circumstances.

We pray for all our Church members throughout the Circuit. We pray for our young people and ask that you give them patience and understanding. We pray for all those in the circuit who are actively supporting us with regular caring phone calls and those who work each week to create the online services and materials that join us together.

This week we pray for the people in Langley who are celebrating their Chapel Anniversary. We look forward in hope to when we can all resume fellowship and worship again in our churches. May joy and companionship soon be part of our lives again.

Members' voice - by Stephan and Christine Rudolfer, Green Close

Rocky Road and Eton Mess (as at 29/03/2020)

We are living in unsettling times. Who would have thought a few short months ago that the nation would now be in lock-down and in a state of anxious paralysis over not being able to get the bare necessities of life? We look with incredulity at the behaviour of those who put themselves before anybody else. Is there any way out?

It has indeed been a rocky road thus far, caused as much by the government's lack of foresight as by their incompetence. All this under the leadership of an Old Etonian. Where is God in all this? We are sure that many of us have cried out to Him, beseeching Him for His mercy; apparently without much effect. More and more people seem to be getting coronavirus, and the death toll is ever upward. Even a cat in Belgium got COVID-19!

Let us try to look at the present situation from **God's** point of view. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus told us to honour God's Name, ask for His Kingdom to come, His will to be done, and ASK TRUSTINGLY for our daily bread TODAY. Why do we ask our Heavenly Father for our DAILY bread TODAY? Daily bread means daily bread, doesn't it?

However, everybody has a different idea of what their daily requirements are. The daily amount depends on each person, and differs for each one of us; also on our propensity to be greedy. The Lord's Prayer lesson has clearly not been learnt by the hoarders!

In the desert, the Israelites were given their daily manna each day, apart from the Sabbath, when they were not to collect any. A double portion of manna was to be collected on the Friday, to include the Sabbath portion. They were to collect the right amount each day, no more and no less. If they collected more, the excess would go bad.

In the same way, we also have to humbly ask for what we need for TODAY, nothing more, nothing less. God is faithful, but do we trust Him enough? "Give us today our daily bread" means "Give us today SUFFICIENT bread for today". We came across this interpretation by looking at the Lord's Prayer in different languages. In one of them, it actually says, "Give us our daily bread ENOUGH FOR TODAY."

Cardinal Newman wrote in his hymn ***Lead kindly Light***
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene;
ONE STEP ENOUGH FOR ME.

This shows HUMBLE TRUST in God's provision. Another Catholic hymn, ***Lord, for tomorrow and its needs***, written by RR Terry (1865-1938), includes the following verses:

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs, I do not pray;
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin JUST FOR TODAY.
Let me both diligently work, and duly pray.
Let me be kind in word and deed, JUST FOR TODAY.
So for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray,
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, JUST FOR TODAY.

This is what **we** should be doing! We have so many treasures, like the Word of God and the gift of prayer, to offer up to the Lord.

Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit, who would guide us, inspire us, warn us, and empower us to pray and use the extra free time now given to us to read the Bible. Reading the Bible may be daunting, but it offers us so much opportunity to get to know Jesus better. The Gospels would be a good start, then the Psalms, which express the whole gamut of human feelings – deep despair, anguished wrestling with God, and exulting in His loving mercy and faithfulness.

It is also important to keep in contact with our fellow church members, and contact anybody the Holy Spirit guides us to. Thank God for the phone!

In a previous sermon, Rev Helen referenced CS Lewis' ***Screwtape Letters***. Screwtape says, "I will cause anxiety, fear and panic. I will shut down business, schools, places of worship, and sports events. I will cause economic turmoil." What an uncanny prophecy of our present state of affairs!

And Jesus' response? "I will bring together neighbours, restore the family unit, I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table. I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters. I will teach My children to rely on me and not the world. I will teach My children to trust Me and not their money and material resources."

Every cloud has a silver lining. Since we have to self-isolate, and are determined to stick to it, we have been contacted by seven neighbours offering their help. We were overwhelmed by their kindness, and are trying to share the burden around. Compassion-fatigue can come very quickly!

We are all being put through the mangle. With God's help, we shall come out the other side better, more caring, more open and more grateful.

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.

Contact: Jane 07541 069771

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.

Pentecost Photos



Please send us your Pentecost Photos!

Following on from the success of Telling the Easter Story from Home, using items from the home or garden, why not create a scene depicting Pentecost? It might be using items from the home or garden or perhaps a special view. Take a photo and we will share these across the Circuit.

Contact: Jane 07541 069771

In Our Local Community....

Thy Kingdom come 21st to 31st May 2020

Thy Kingdom come is suggesting a new initiative for 24/7 prayer over the 10 day period between 21st and 31st May by setting up online "prayer rooms" and encouraging people to sign up and fill every hour. The idea is that across all the Methodist churches in the district, with Greater Manchester Churches Together and beyond we would have every hour covered for the whole ten days - with people signing up for hour slots.

The UK Blessing

65 churches worked together to sing a blessing over the UK, and also to witness to the current work of the church at this time - with many supplying meals to the vulnerable, befriending those in isolation and working with the NHS to deliver medicines. The message is that church doors may be closed, but that the church is alive and well.



**East Cheshire
Hospice**
Where people come to live

With the cancellation of so many fundraising activities, the Hospice is experiencing financial challenges as at no other point in its history. We are very grateful to the 100s of people who have already helped us deliver our care at this exceptionally difficult time.

Action for Children Emergency Coronavirus Appeal

Action for Children has launched an Emergency Coronavirus Appeal to help provide essentials to the most vulnerable families they support across the UK and those potentially affected in the future.



Coronavirus has thrown all our lives, our communities and the UK into an unprecedented crisis. Families who were already struggling are now unable to buy food and basic essentials such as nappies, cleaning products, and money for gas and electricity. They need us now more than ever.

The charity is working hard to make sure they can still support children and their families at this difficult time. They are creating more digital solutions to support where face-to-face options are limited. If you can, please donate and keep the charity in your prayers.

Who needs to travel?...



A message from Monica Gent, Macclesfield

Thank you to all who sent cards, brought gifts, and contacted me in various ways on my 80th birthday last week. You all made my day special in these strange times.

Just for fun!

Maybe with all the dry weather we've had recently, you've been able to get into the garden. Why not try this wordsearch?

Garden Word Search



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

Apple
Asparagus
Beans
Beds
Bucket
Cabbage
Carrot
Compost
Corn
Eggplant
Fence
Flower
Fruit

Garden
Gate
Greenhouse
Harvest
Herbs
Jalapeno
Ladybug
Leaf
Lettuce
Manure
Mulch
Onion
Oregano

Pear
Peas
Pecans
Pepper
Potato
Rhubarb
Roots
Rosemary
Sage
Seeds
Shed
Shovel
Soil

Spinach
Stem
Strawberry
Sunflower
Thyme
Tomato
Trowel
Vegetable
Weeding
Wheelbarrow
Worms

Fancy baking?

Etymology

- Greek *pent-*, *penta-*, combining forms representing *pénte* five

As it's 'Pentecost', why not try a recipe with just **five** ingredients and **five** step method??

Almond Pastry Puff

- 100g ground almonds
 - 1tbsp double cream, plus extra to serve
 - 75g icing sugar, plus extra for dusting
 - 2 large eggs
 - 375g block all-butter puff pastry (cold)
1. Preheat the oven to 220 Degrees Celsius/200 Degrees Celsius fan/gas 7. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
 2. In a food processor, mix the ground almonds, cream, icing sugar, 1 egg and a pinch of sea salt until combined, stopping to scrape down the sides with a spatula, if needed.
 3. Halve the pastry, shape into 2 rounds and, working quickly dusting with icing sugar as you go to stop the pastry sticking, roll out between 2 sheets of greaseproof paper until they are just under 1/2cm thick. Place 1 round on the lined tray. Spread the almond paste on top, leaving a 2cm gap at the edges. Put the other round on top and gently push together. Quickly seal the edges with the back of a fork. Egg wash the top, then dust over an extra layer of sugar.
 4. Gently push your finger into the middle of the pastry, then, with a sharp knife, very delicately make little lines from the centre to the outside. Bake on the bottom of the oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until puffed up and golden,
 5. Dust with a little extra icing sugar before dishing up and serving with cream.



Tell us about your bakes & share your favourite recipes

Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!

Contact: Jane 07541 069771

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 31 May 2020 – Pentecost

AM – Traditional morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE <http://tiny.cc/mmcpcost>

LISTEN.....DIAL IN - 01625 786346 (Available from 10am Sun)

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

YOUTUBE.....: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1PS5ox80YSZj71WMDHVmQ>

PM – Live Evening Prayer Service at 6.30pm

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

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

LISTEN.....DIAL IN - 0203 051 2874 or 0203 481 5237 & and when asked, input the

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Services coming up.....

7 June AM – led by Graham

14 June AM – led by Helen, Refugee Week

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

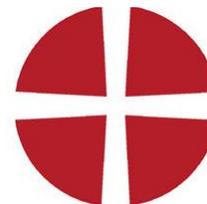


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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

Listen to **news**: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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.

Contact Details

For Children & Families

Angela Bourne

Tel: 07901 777506

Ministers

Rev Graham Edwards

Tel: 01625 426051

Rev Helen Byrne

Tel: 01625 572259

Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060
