



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

12th Issue: 14th June 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,

"Ogres are like onions" said Shrek "Ogres have layers, onions have layers – we both have layers!" If you don't know the reference, you need to watch the film! What you see on the surface of a person (or an Ogre!) is not all there is to them, there is always more going on than can be seen!



A little while ago I visited my mum who lives in the house I grew up in, which is the house that my grandparents bought in the 1950s. While there I noticed a drainpipe, as the house had been empty for a few years, time had taken its toll and the drainpipe needed a new coat of paint. However, as I looked, I could see layers of paint going back at least forty years, I remember the drainpipes, gutters, and facias being black and I can remember them being red in the 1980s. But now looking at the layers I can see that at some point it was painted blue, grey, yellow, and even a kind of peachy colour! I vaguely remember seeing photos of the house with yellow

paint (before my time in the 1970s!) but the layers taught me something new! These layers reveal history, and you might raise an eyebrow and think I am a bit odd when I write this, but I think there is something beautiful about them! Have you ever heard of *Fordite*? that is what the picture opposite is. It is made of layers of automotive paint that built up in the spraying booths of car factories, most notably Detroit in the USA. It can be cut, polished, and made into jewellery and other things like paperweights. The layers of paint built up over time create something beautiful.



We, like Ogres, drainpipes, and Fordite, are made up of many layers. The places we have been, our education, our work and family life, our successes, our failures, our regrets, our dreams and much more, create layers in us. All these layers tell our story, there is a beauty to them because they speak of who we are, and what is important to us. In 1971 Stephen Crites wrote about the stories we tell, and argued that there are *mundane* stories, the ordinary day to day things that people see and hear about us.

But these *mundane* stories help us understand the *sacred* stories, the deeper things about us, and who we are. Our layers, our history, our stories – good and bad, help us make sense of the world we live in, and help us understand what it is to be Disciples of Christ.

In these last few months many people have struggled, with lockdown, with isolation, with the lack of human contact and more – it has reminded me that we have lots of layers, and we each face challenges in our lives. We might struggle with mental health, we might struggle without being busy, we might struggle with fear of what the future will look like for us, for the world and for the church – we might struggle with all sort of things! But we don't have to feel embarrassed, or hide those things away – because God says we, with all our layers, are beautiful! In 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul asks, "don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" God loves us as we are. In years to come, we will look back at this strange time as one more layer, and I pray, I know, we will be able to see the work of God among us, helping us to be who we are created to be – layers and all!

Ogres, onions, drainpipes, Fordite – layers are beautiful! So are yours and mine and God is in them all!

With every blessing,
Graham

We are always pleased to receive articles for mini messenger and these are the words and views/ comments of the authors themselves. They may or may not represent the views of the Macclesfield Circuit of the Methodist Church.

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, the Methodist Church is encouraging churches and circuits across the connexion to run a 'Bible Month' 30 days focusing on a single book from the Bible - Bible Month 2020 focuses on the book of Ruth and is usually held during June. So, for the next four weeks we will be reading the book of Ruth as part of our Sunday School.

Activity sheets including clips attached.

Don't forget.... .Messy Church Live - Saturday 20th June 2-3pm.



Anyone not on Facebook will need to email me, if they would like to attend.
methodistfamilies@gmail.com

Angela

Prayer- in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Green Close this week. This prayer has been provided by Stephan Rudolfer.

Let us pray together

Glorious and Holy Trinity, at this time of uncertainty and insecurity, it is our privilege and duty to come to you in humble adoration and worship. Lord, for the moment we cannot do this in community, so we do this individually, uniting all our individual prayers through the power of the Holy Spirit, whose outpouring on the assembled disciples we have recently celebrated, and whose presence in our lives should give us strength, insight and hope.

Lord, your majesty and infinity are incomprehensible to our finite minds, yet through Jesus you reveal yourself to us in wonderful ways. Thank you that the one who has seen Jesus has seen the Father. Thank you, Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus, for sending us your third person to fill us to overflowing, to be with us forever, and to inspire, guide and strengthen us in our daily struggles with the enemy.

For, Lord, daily life has become a real struggle for many throughout the world, as they try to cope with the ever-present threat of the coronavirus, the hidden enemy who can strike at any moment from any direction. In particular, we think of, and pray hard for, those people living in small flats, often in high-rise blocks, for whom self-exclusion and lockdown are proving extremely stressful. It is hardly surprising that domestic violence is on the increase. Holy Spirit, we beg you to please fill those people struggling to cope with social isolation and domestic violence, turning violence into voluntary caring,

and hatred into long-term loving. At this critical time when lockdown is slowly being relaxed, Lord, please inspire the government and all officials to make the correct decisions, so that there is no second wave of COVID-19.

We also pray against the demons of racial prejudice, which have reared their ugly heads yet again, culminating in the brutal murder of George Floyd. We pray, glorious Holy Trinity, that you might convict all those involved of sin, righteousness and judgment to come.

In Jesus' name, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Members' voice - by Frank Bishop, Gawsforth

Those of you who know me will have gathered that I am a bit of a "sports nut", so I have greatly missed live sport on Television during this lockdown period. I normally get full value from my Sky Sports subscription!. I was, therefore, very interested to read an article in "The Times" about Christians in Sport. It's director is Graham Daniels, a former professional footballer and now a Director of Cambridge United. He said his organisation had never been so busy as during this time of Covid 19. When he came to faith as a young player in the 1980s, he says that Football was a lonely place to be if you were a young Christian.....if you did not fit into the macho, aggressive, drinking, womanising, in-your-face, one-of-the-boys, gaffer the big authority figure – if you did not fit into that caricature, or play up to it, you could be at risk, as simple as that, he says.

Hopefully, it's a bit better now, but you admire people who can live out their faith in the sporting environment. One such, who was mentioned in the article was Jurgen Klopp, the charismatic manager of Liverpool FC, who is very up-front about his Christian Faith. He has been very open about the impact of his upbringing in a Lutheran home, and how his "lust for life" derives from his Christian faith. It also gives him a sense of security: "There is nothing so important to me that I cannot bear to lose it, and that is why I have no reason to fear" With the stakes so high in Premiership Football, his is surely, a healthy attitude. I am thankful for people like Jurgen Klopp who live out their faith in the high profile world of elite sport.

If it is not possible to conclude the Premier League fixtures I hope that Liverpool are declared the Champions. With such a massive lead at the top of the Table they well deserve it. I am sure the Super will agree with me, not so sure about Manchester City or United Fans!

Frank Bishop (long suffering supporter of Ipswich Town FC)

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.

Pentecost Photos

If you haven't already, please don't forget to send us your Pentecost Photos!
email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

Community....



A message from Revd Kate Le Sueur. Head of Chaplaincy – North...

You will be well aware from the media that the coronavirus pandemic has been a difficult time in the care of people in later life, especially those living in care homes. Sadly, MHA has not been immune to some of the tragic events that have taken place and we are mourning the deaths of residents, members and colleagues. You may also have seen that our CEO Sam Monaghan, has been at the forefront of the calls for more PPE and testing in care homes and we are pleased that those efforts are finally beginning to bear fruit.

As part of our reflection on the pandemic, we will be leading a service for MHA Sunday on June 14th and we would like to invite you and your Circuit to join us for that act of worship. The service will include reflections, prayers and music from across MHA on how coronavirus has impacted us and there will also be an act of memorial led by our patron, Pam Rhodes and a blessing given by Professor Clive Marsh, Vice President of The Methodist Conference.

The service will be streamed on www.mha.org.uk/mhasunday from 3pm on Sunday June 14th and also available at any time afterwards.

Although 14 June was originally designated MHA Sunday, we can celebrate it at any time of year and here in the Macclesfield Circuit we intend to hold our own MHA Sunday once we are able to worship back in our churches.



Joint Public Issues Team Stay Alert to Justice Campaign: Briefing

What is Stay Alert to Justice? Stay Alert to Justice is the new campaign from the Methodist Church along with the Baptist Union and United Reformed Church.

A 2'53 film is narrated by representatives of the three denominations including, from the Methodist Church, Revd Barbara Glasson, Prof Anthony Reddie and Anna Merriman. It makes passing reference to the recent change in Government guidance in England from 'Stay at Home' to 'Stay Alert', and reminds us of the things to which we need to stay alert.

Find out more at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/corona-virus/stayalert/

Barnaby Festival – 20th – 27th June

The Barnaby Parade is one of the highlights of the festival bringing people together in a celebration of creativity and community. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Barnaby Festival cannot hold the parade in the normal way this year, but the festival is working with partners to present a

[#homemadeparade](#)

This year parade makers and a collection of local artists are asking residents to create a parade entry in their homes and gardens. The idea is for residents to decorate their windows, porches, gardens, balconies, or any space that they have in their homes to celebrate Barnaby Festival's theme of Vision. Make your home your float!

All activities will take place in people's homes and we ask everyone taking part to observe the government guidelines on safety.

Activity will take place on Saturday June 20 from 11.30am. Keep an eye out for more information. <https://barnabyfestival.org.uk/homemade-parade/>



Macclesfield Town Council



BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

Proud of your front garden? Why not enter our competition

Categories:

- Best hanging basket
- Best window box
- Best small front garden (up to 25sq m)
- Best large front garden (over 20sq m)

How to enter: email a photo of your garden to admin@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

Four best entries for each category will be circulated on social media so people can vote. Trophy for the winners

Closing date: Monday 13th July

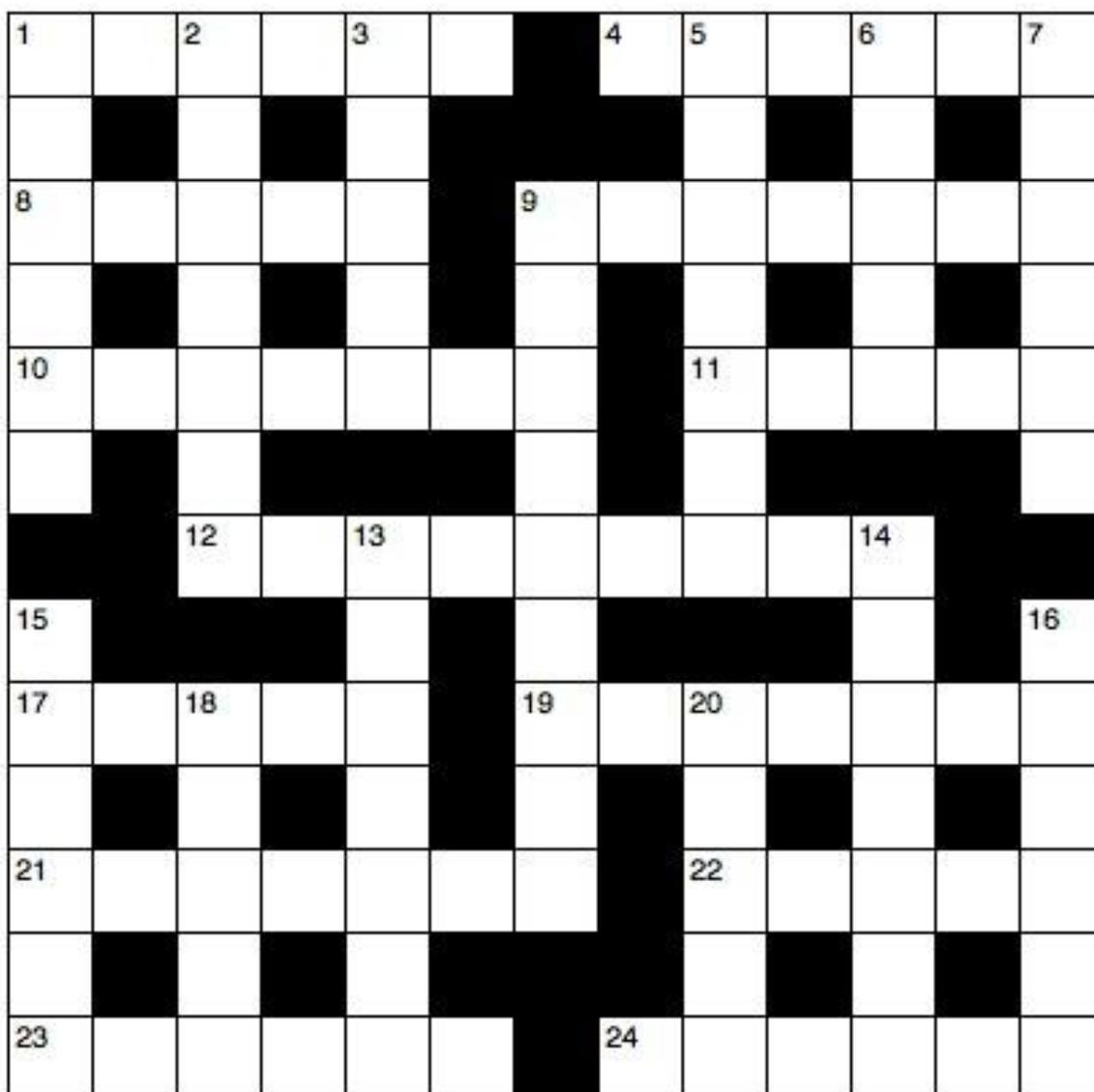


Have you been pottering about in the garden at the weekend (in between rain showers)?

If so and you want to show off your achievements, enter the competition!

Just for fun!

From Parish Pump



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment(Jeremiah29:1)(5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way'(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.)(7)

- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin,cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)

Fancy baking?

Did you know??

According to www.daysoftheyear.com 14th June is 'Cupcake Day' and so our recipe this week had to be....you guessed it, a cupcake one!

As a staple of every good church cake stall/coffee morning etc, you may already have your tried & tested, go to recipe so, here's something a little bit different to try.....

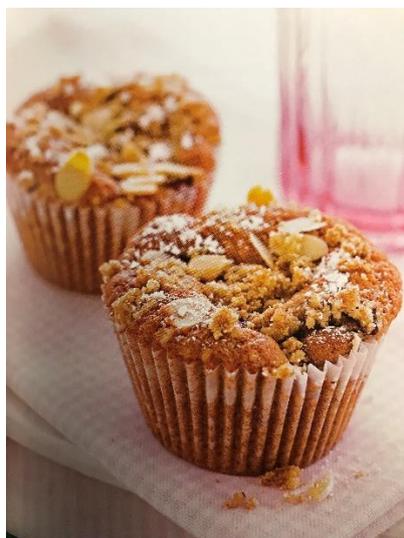
Rhubarb crumble cupcakes

Ingredients

- Sunflower oil, for brushing.
- 275g rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 1cm (half-inch) lengths.
- 200g light muscovado sugar.
- 175g lightly salted butter, softened.
- 225g self-raising flour.
- 1tsp baking powder.
- 1/2tsp ground cinnamon.
- 3 eggs.
- 3tbsp flaked almonds.
- Icing sugar, for dusting.

Method

- 1.) Line a 12-section muffin tray with paper muffin cases. Lightly brush a foil-lined baking sheet with oil and scatter with the rhubarb. Sprinkle with 25g of the muscovado sugar and bake in a preheated oven 200 degrees Celsius, 400 degrees Fahrenheit, 180 degrees Celsius fan, gas 6 for 20-30 minutes or until tender and beginning to darken around the edges. Leave to cool. Reduce the oven to 180 degrees Celsius, (160 fan) (350 degrees Fahrenheit, gas 4.)
- 2.) Put 150g of the sugar, 150g of the butter, 175g of the flour, the baking powder, cinnamon and eggs in a bowl and beat with a hand-held electric whisk for about 1 minute until light and creamy. Divide the cake mixture between the paper cases, spreading it fairly level, and top with the rhubarb pieces.
- 3.) Put the remaining butter and flour in a food processor and process until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add the remaining muscovado sugar and process briefly until mixed. Scatter over the cakes and sprinkle with the almonds.
- 4.) Bake for 25-30 minutes, until risen and golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve dusted with icing sugar.



Tell us about your bakes & share your favourite recipes

Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!

email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.
DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 14 June – Refugee Week

AM – Morning worship led by Helen

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

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

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

LISTEN.....DIAL IN - 0203 051 2874 or 0203 481 5237 & and when asked, input the Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Services coming up.....

21 June AM – led by Ros

28 June AM – led by Graham - Conference Sunday

5 July AM – led by Helen

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

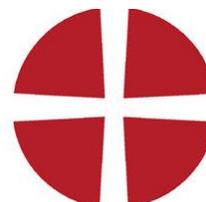


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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.

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>

<https://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/MWoL>

Contact Details

For Children & Families

Angela Bourne

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Ministers

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Rev Helen Byrne

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