



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

13th Issue: 21st 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,

I have always had a soft spot for cartoon villains! Mumm-Ra, Mr. Burns, Dr Blight, and Skeletor (those are the ones in the picture in case you didn't know!) to name but a few! I often found the baddies more amusing because their plans for world domination had no rhyme or reason and always failed spectacularly! The goodies were often too nice for my taste! A year or two ago I did an assembly in some local Primary



schools, I showed pictures of goodies and baddies from some classic cartoons, and asked "how do you know who is who?" Is it the way they speak? No. Is it the way they dress? No. Is it the way they look? No. Finally, one little boy asked, "is it they things they do?" Yes! Of course, we know that sometimes we judge others on the way they look, or the way they sound, or the way they dress. We are often ashamed of those judgements because the most important thing to consider is what people do, how people live in the world. It's those things that tell us about people, their values, their priorities, and their 'heart' - and it's those things that tell others about us too.

The first great North African Theologian (that we know about) was Tertullian (c160 – 220ad), he was raised in a pagan family, educated in Latin grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy. Some time in his middle age he converted to Christianity and was ordained a presbyter in Carthage. In *Apologeticus pro Christianis*, he writes a defense of the Christian faith and imagines pagans watching Christians living out their faith and saying, "see how they love one other!" That kind of community is the core of what we



are, or should be, - people who live in and by love. Of course, we Methodists remember that some 1500 years after Tertullian, John Wesley wrote *The Nature, Design, and General Rules, of the United Societies*, which describes how the first Methodist societies grew. A community "having the form and seeking the power of Godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation." Watch over one another in love. Love is at the heart of who we are, how we live and

proclaim God's goodness in the world. That sounds easy, but in truth it is deeply challenging.

Now, you might find this hard to believe, but Methodist Ministers are not perfect, and sometimes we get things wrong! When we do, I hope that, more often than not, we get things wrong for the right reasons! It's not just ministers, we all get things wrong from time to time. When those moments come, how do we respond? Holding a grudge? Subtle (or not so subtle) digs at one another? Refusing to move on? Making sure everyone remembers the mistake? Do we really show love to one another – or could we do better? I'm sure many of you, like me, will have had someone approach you saying, "can I say something to you in Christian love?" when really they want to tell you off! How will people know who we are, who we follow, and what we are all about – by our love. At this time in the world, and in the church, with all the uncertainty we face we need that love more than ever. So perhaps it's time to think, can we do better? How do we watch over each other in love?

Let me finish with some questions for us to consider:

1. What does love look like?
2. What does love sound like?
3. What does love feel like?

When we answer those questions, we might know once again how to watch over one another in love. So, to use the catchphrase I'm claiming for the next little while – let's "think on"!

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.

Children & Families

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, we continue to focus on the book of Ruth and this week the story is of Ruth meeting Boaz.

Activity sheets including clips attached.

Angela

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

Let us pray together

For our prayer for Sunday 21st June, may we find encouragement, strength and comfort from God's Word in the Bible, as we remember God's promises to us in His Word, such as "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46 v.1) and "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (from Romans 8 v.39).

In these difficult times, we pray Lord that You will help us all to remember just how much You love us, enough to give Your life for us on the cross, and that no matter what we are going through, nothing can separate us from Your love.

As the lockdown gradually eases, we look forward to the day when we can meet together again and pray that in the meantime You will keep everyone safe and well, particularly those feeling the pain of separation from friends and loved ones.

This month we at Macc Methodist should have been meeting with our ecumenical partners from other local churches for the Barnaby Sunday open air service in the Market Place, and we pray for all the churches in our area and in our Circuit, that You will richly bless everyone with Your love.

Amen.

Members' voice - by Jill Longson

GAWSWORTH LIFE

In recent times the village has seen many more visitors than usual. Families walking the many footpaths, joggers, cyclists, picnickers in the fields, people feeding the best fed ducks for miles around, watching the parents teaching their young vital skills and



escorting their brood from one Church pond to another, also unfortunately watching them being picked off by greedy birds. The park has been eerily quiet since the play area has been out of bounds, but Benbrook in Nancy's wood has been a magnet for children splashing about and exploring the woodland.

The two Churches, Village Hall and Scout Hut have all fallen silent during lockdown but it has not meant that the residents have. We, at the Methodist

Church have been keeping in touch by telephoning members and friends on a daily basis and exchanging letters. Our Church secretary, Carolyn, has also been compiling and producing a fortnightly newsletter to everyone, either by email or in person by Revs Frank and Sheila whizzing around the village on their new electric bikes. The members have also been keeping in touch with their Girls Brigade buddies hearing what they have been up to. We will all agree that the weekly Circuit Service has been a great blessing and given us a real focus at 10.30 each Sunday. Thanks to all the Staff and contributors.

The Parish Church have also been delivering a weekly Reflective service. Rachel, the Rector's wife has been co-ordinating a group of volunteers to deliver food and collect prescriptions to the housebound. Rachel has also been delivering donated food to the Macclesfield and Congleton Food Banks.

The Parish Council have been using technology to conduct their meetings by Zoom. The village School has been open every day for the children of key workers under the guidance of their head, Mr Shaw.

The village Community Shop and Hub has been invaluable during the lockdown and although they lost a third of the volunteers, out of necessity had to reduce the



opening hours by a third, the under 70's have kept the business in good shape even increasing the business by 55%. The Hub manager organises and delivers a weekly Quiz sheet and co-ordinates donations of crafts and goods in aid of the East Cheshire Hospice.

Where would we have been without our local milkman, Dennis. The Newton family have been producing and delivering milk to the village for generations from their dairy farm (they

were recently featured on BBC North West Tonight). The business has also added more dairy products to its range and even delivers daily newspapers. For years, Dennis has been the eyes and ears for the elderly residents.

So, what have I been up to these last three months apart from the usual spring cleaning. For the first time ever I have turned my hand to growing a few vegetables, done lots more baking to support the family who have continued to work, made around 40 masks in aid of the EC Hospice and walked some of the footpaths I have not walked in years and some new ones too. The glorious weather and the silence with only the birdsong have all been the more enriching which I expect we will not experience again when life returns to "normal". One other thing I hope will not change is that more local people have been willing to stop and engage in conversation. Long may it continue.

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.

Update on Church Buildings....



The Methodist Church:
Macclesfield Circuit



Superintendent Minister:
The Revd Dr Graham M Edwards
Tel: 01625 426 051
email: graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk

From the Circuit Leadership Team.
14th June 2020

Dear Friends,

The Methodist church has considered guidance from government regarding church buildings and the advice to Methodist Churches and Circuits remains that churches stay closed. Therefore, despite the news headlines, Methodist Church buildings in the Macclesfield Circuit will not be opening for private prayer or worship for the foreseeable future. We do not expect this situation to change this Connexional year although the circuit team will review this depending on Connexional advice. We will continue praying and worshipping in our homes, online on our Facebook page and YouTube channel and on the phone. Our desire, and priority, remains to protect the vulnerable.

Although we are beginning to see changes in the restrictions affecting church buildings and our people, the reality is that there is still some time to go before we will be able to gather together and appropriately share in the things we know and love. At the weekend, the Government announced that our buildings might be able to open from the 13th June for private prayer. What they didn't mention was the 20 pages of documentation that Managing Trustees (Church Council) must honour and work through. Nor did they explain the ongoing work and cleaning that will be needed to be fulfilled for us to begin to welcome people into the church building safely again. This management and cleaning of buildings cannot depend on those in vulnerable groups or those over 70 years.

We are simply not there yet. We know that is not what people want to hear but we want to offer clarity and reassurance. Please bear with us a little longer. At this time, we cannot open without excluding some people, especially those who are most vulnerable. To open for the fit and healthy alone would be in opposition to our faith as Christians and to our practice of being Methodists who proclaim, "all are welcome". To limit or restrict access to the means of grace, or to only be able to meet with huge restrictions on what we are able to do, without singing or fellowship for instance, would not be the church of love and meaning to which we

long to return. We continue to hope and pray that you are keeping safe at this time and we ask that you get in touch with one of the circuit staff if you know that someone is particularly vulnerable or needs help. We thank everybody who has continued to serve the church throughout the lockdown, and we remain incredibly grateful that the church family continues to care for each other in these extraordinary circumstances.

With every blessing,



The Rev'd Dr Graham M Edwards

From the Methodist Church press release 11/6/2020:

“The Government has changed its advice to allow churches and other religious buildings to open for individual prayer from Monday June 15 [later revised to June 13]...

...We understand the vital need for prayer at this time and have found that our people have been praying no less because they have not had buildings in which to pray. Above all, we want people to pray and worship safely and as we have already stated, we are committed to doing a full review of our guidance after Conference.” www.methodist.org.uk

Please keep collecting!

As you will just have read, our church buildings aren't likely to be opened up just yet, which means that the letting income that is normally received just isn't coming in. Additionally, no Church service means no collection taken so each and every Church Treasurer is doing everything they can to try balance the books!

Many expenses still remain though, all Churches have a commitment to pay monies every quarter into circuit funds so that Methodism can continue to function nationally, ministers' stipends can be paid and manses kept in good order. Church assessments are set to increase from August, everything agreed before we'd heard of 'lockdown'.

We can all do our bit to help however.

If you haven't already, why not set up a regular Standing Order? If you've been putting something aside each week, then maybe it's time to 'empty the pot' and pass this on? And of course, don't forget to Gift Aid if you can - it's worth an extra 25% from HMRC for your church.

Finally, if you're in the fortunate position where lockdown has saved you some money – Less petrol/car maintenance; Dining in instead of dining out; No more day trips/cinema/theatre visits; Online newspaper subscriptions rather than more expensive hard copy? Then why not make a 'one off' donation to your church instead?

Your church Treasurer can let you know how best to do this – they'd be delighted to hear from you!!!.

Community....



Citizens Advice

Our annual Scams Awareness Campaign runs from the 15- 28 June.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, people are facing more problems than ever before — from employment and debt, to housing and health. At Citizens Advice, we've seen a surge in demand for our advice across the board. Many of us are understandably more anxious and preoccupied than we usually would be — making us the perfect target for scammers. Our new research reveals 1 in 3 people have been contacted by a scammer since the coronavirus outbreak. However, this increases to 1 in 2 people in the group who are at greater risk of coronavirus.

Since lockdown began, we've been relying on the internet more than usual. It's been our gateway to stay connected with friends, access essential services and work from home. Unfortunately, relying on the internet also gives scammers more opportunities to take advantage of us. Find out more at

<https://wearecitizensadvice.org.uk/why-its-so-important-to-be-scamaware-1b2cf48f5a79>

Prayer Breakfast



The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is an annual recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to the national life of the UK. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast will take place online and will be livestreamed from **8.30-9.00am** on **Tuesday 30 June**. The event will be chaired by **Marsha de Cordova MP** and the main speaker will be **the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin**, who will

address the theme of **'Hope and peace in a time of fear and suffering.'**

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we want to bring together parliamentarians, church leaders and Christians from across the UK to pray for our country, the NHS and other key workers, Parliament and the Government, as well as reflect upon the message of hope, peace and loving service that the Christian faith brings to our society in this moment. More information is available at:

www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/prayer-breakfast/

Two months into Covid-19 lockdown, and Christians have adapted and changed to keep the Church alive even when we cannot physically gather. How do we turn this experience into the greatest positive of our lifetime for the church? This question and more is explored in the first of Premier's Digital Church webinar series. Watch the webinar for free [here](#).



Just for fun!

From Parish Pump



The Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It is in fact a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian Member of Parliament who spent his life fighting to help ease the miserable conditions in lunatic asylums, to stop the practise of forcing young children to be chimney sweeps, to stop children working in factories below the age of 10, to stop women and children going in the mines at all, to stop opium addiction, and to provide Ragged Schools for children without any means of education. On the day of his funeral at Westminster Abbey, tens of thousands of poor Londoners thronged the streets to see his coffin go by. He was much loved as The Poor Man's Earl.

Piccadilly
Circus
Statue
Angel
Memorial
Victorian
Philanthropist
Politician

Social
Reformer
Lunatics
Chimney
Sweeps
Shaftesbury
Earl
Poor

Man
Factories
Ragged
Schools
Coffin
London
Streets
loved

Fancy baking?

Having celebrated motherhood in March this Sunday it is our fathers' turn to put their feet up and be spoiled for a day. Even if your dad isn't typically a stout drinker (we are Methodists after all!), he is sure to love the gentle malty hops flavour and sweet, rich dark treacle in this cake. And with its simple buttercream filling and fine dusting of icing sugar, it's light and modest enough for Dad to kick back a little bit longer and enjoy a second slice.

Ginger and stout cake

Ingredients

- 250ml stout
- 350g treacle
- 2tsp baking powder
- 2 medium eggs
- 230g dark muscovado sugar
- 110g margarine
- 250g self-raising flour
- 1tbsp ground ginger
- 2tsp ground cinnamon

Buttercream

- 140g unsalted butter, softened
- 250g icing sugar, sifted, plus extra for dusting
- 1-2 tsp milk
- 2-3tbsp shredless marmalade

Method

- 1.) Preheat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius, 180 degrees Celsius fan, gas 6. Grease and line two 20cm round tins.
- 2.) Combine the stout and treacle in a pan and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat, add the baking powder and allow to foam and then settle.
- 3.) Whisk the eggs and sugar until thick and pale. Add the margarine, flour and spices and whisk again to combine. Finally stir in the stout mixture, then divide the batter evenly between the tins.
- 4.) Give each tin a few stirs with a fork then bake for 30-35 minutes and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tins for 10-15 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
- 5.) For the buttercream, beat the butter, and gradually add the icing sugar and milk until thick and well combined. Add a little more icing sugar if needed.
- 6.) To assemble, spread the marmalade over one cake layer, then cover it with the buttercream and then the second cake. Dust the top of the cake 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

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 21 June

AM – Morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE <http://tiny.cc/trinity2>

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.....

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.

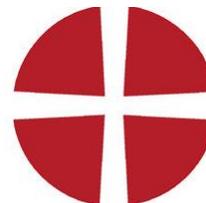


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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

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Ministers

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