



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

14<sup>th</sup> Issue: 28<sup>th</sup> 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,

When I was eighteen, I became a student at Cliff College, spending three years there and completing my first degree. It was an especially important time for me as while I was there, I preached for the first time (in an evangelical church in Wythenshawe with a congregation of about eight women of a certain age!). I experienced working in lots of different churches with diverse teams of people, in this country and abroad, and made some very good friends. It was while I was a student at Cliff that I first heard the call to ministry and realised

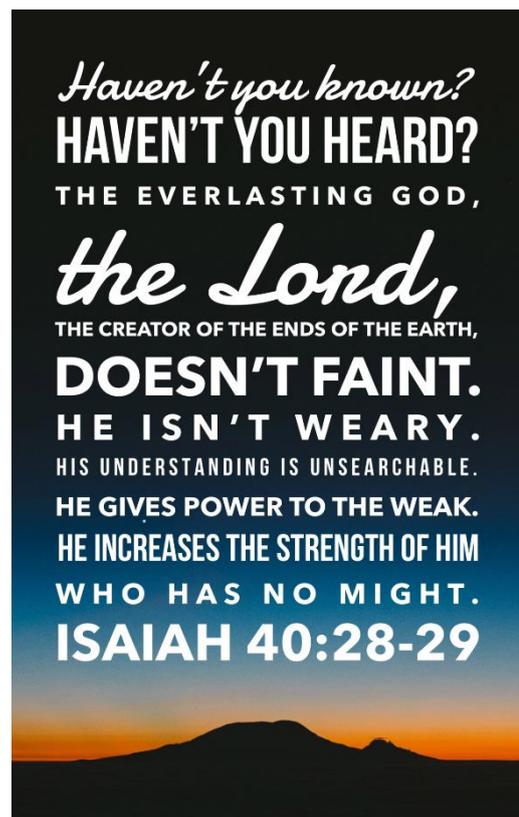


that every church does things in slightly different ways! It doesn't feel it, but it is now nearly twenty years since I left Cliff.

I have been back to Cliff many times over the years, for conferences and committees, when I was leading the youth work



for the Festival, to camp with friends, to visit my sister when she worked there and so on. It is always a slightly strange experience as the whole site is filled with memories! Whenever groups of Cliff students from a particular era get together, eventually we start to say, "they have it easy these days", or "well, it wasn't like this in our day". We talk about the doors being locked at 10.30pm so that if you were out late [perhaps at the Bridge Inn, but I won't confirm this] you had to hope there was an unlocked window, or someone up late in the library so you could get back in! We talk about the rising bell going off at 6.45am and morning prayers at 7.45am! We talk about queuing for dinner and asking, "what is it today?", and knowing the



answer was usually “brown” or “white” because that was the best description we could come up with!

Going back to Cliff is always strange because things are not as they were, but I still feel the presence of God there, I still hear God speak there, and I still recognise the call of God there. We have shared in a few very strange months together, the suspension of ordinary life, isolation from family and friends, and worshipping God in unfamiliar ways. In the weeks and months ahead, we hope to be going back to something like normal, but of course what we are going back to will inevitably be different, at least in the short term. We may find this “new normal” strange and uncomfortable, it may be confusing and disconcerting, but God is with us. We will still meet God in expected and unexpected ways, we will still hear God’s voice in the ordinary things of life, and in the times when life is anything but ordinary.

Throughout history, the world has changed again and again, sometimes in the most dramatic ways, yet men, women, and children throughout the ages have encountered God and his love - so will we.

*“The Lord is the everlasting God ... He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength” Isaiah 40: 28-29.* As we begin to go back to a new normal, let us trust in the Lord and renew our strength.

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.**

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## **Please keep collecting!**

As our church buildings aren’t open just yet and gatherings aren’t permitted, 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!!!.

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## **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 we will be reading the story of Ruth and Boaz at the threshing floor.

Activity sheets including clips attached.

**Angela**

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

### **Let us pray together**

Father God we come to worship and thank you for being a God who is always present and approachable. In these strange times we thank you that you understand our anxieties and fears. We praise you that no matter who we are or whatever we are facing your loving presence never leaves us.

Thank you for our church family. We pray for those who are coping with illness or uncertainty about the future, may they know your peace and strength.

We pray for our minister Helen in all the demands on her time. Please grant her your wisdom and strength and be especially close to her in her role as Hospital Chaplain. At this time when we cannot meet in church we thank you for the gift of technology enabling us to join in services in our own homes. Thank you for those who produce Pews News and the Messenger which keep us connected with everybody.

Most of all Father we thank you that through Jesus you have made yourself known to us. Thank you that through his death and resurrection Jesus showed victory over death and despair giving us the assurance that nothing can separate us from his love.

Please keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we will know his powerful life changing power. We ask that your Holy Spirit will guide, protect and empower us in all we say and do and all glory be given to you. We ask our prayer in Jesus' name Amen

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**Members' voice** - by Alan Coley, Prestbury Methodist

### **GEODES AND ONIONS!:**

I have on my windowsill, here at Belong Care Home Macclesfield, a collection of treasures, given to me by my Grandchildren. Knowing my professional interest in Geology and Exploration, they have spotted these objects in shops, when on holiday.

They know Granddad would be very interested in them, and that he/I would possibly, be able to unlock their secrets? One is the very thin slice of a concretion to be found in igneous rocks, a similar thing can be discovered in Sedimentary Strata. The former were once a kind of globule, vast, large or small, as part of a molten mass deep below the earth's surface in the magma.

Only later or much later, to be exposed by erosion or blown out in the lava of a volcanic eruption. My slice, is beautiful 10plus cms. diameter, delicately rose coloured, with concentric layers, of I what think are the successive stages of crystallisation during the cooling process.

The nodule the children gave me is equally mysterious. It has been cut in half, of which I have one part. It again shows the process: stages of concentric crystallisation, but the hollow centre filled with spiky, very sharp HEXAGONAL crystals of QUARTZ. It has the next hardness to DIAMOND which is 9 on the scale. Silica or quartz has a hardness of 7.

One has to warn anyone inspecting such specimens, to be careful, it is very easy to cut one's fingers on the points of the crystals!!!

Over the years I collected many treasures, not only from geologising but other natural items; different colours of wool from sheep; egg shells from nests, thrown away by tidy birds, leaves particularly showing those beautiful autumnal colours, to be carefully pressed. These all were used, not only with our own children, but with college students and for them to be encouraged to become collectors too. With each move, many things were lost or thrown away, particularly when we moved into care. We had to drastically downsize. There's a lesson some of you have already learned, to be ruthless. Don't be like me, a careful Yorkshire Man, saying "it might come in" or else you'll be like the people on TV programmes, inundated by it all!!!

Too much clobber/rubbish.

PS. We are all ONIONS, peel one layer, you don't know what will be revealed.

### ***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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## Community....



### Methodist Conference

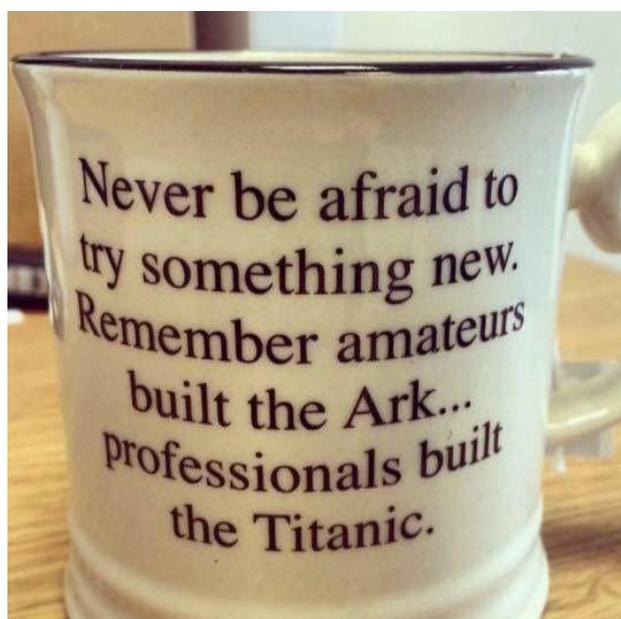
The MWiB Fringe event has been cancelled, but there is still opportunity to share 'Signs of Kingdom Growth' from the Methodist Church in Britain and around the world. A selection of stories will be available to read and/or download each day of Conference (Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Thursday 2nd July)

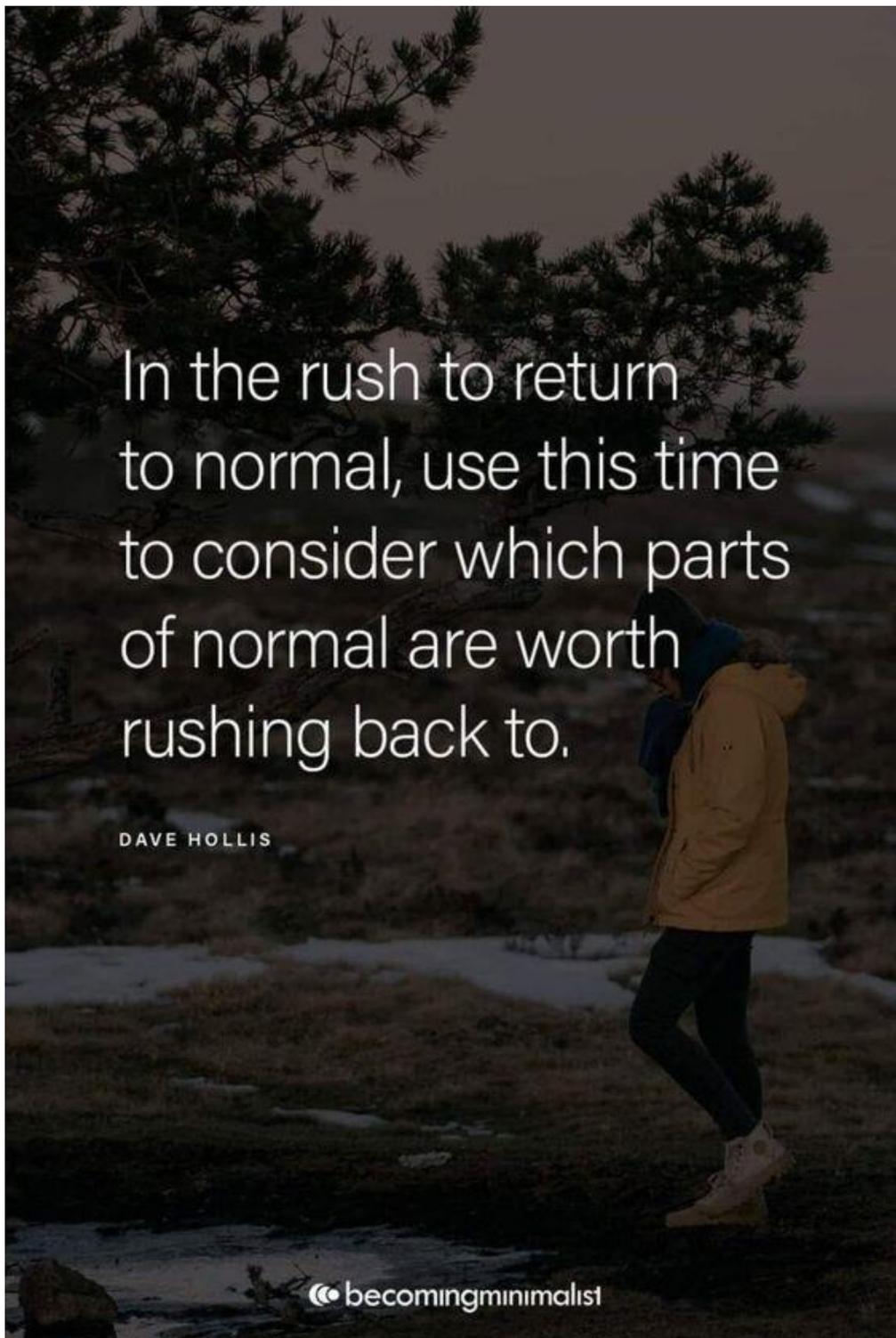
on the Home page of the MWiB website: <https://mwib.org.uk/>



New analysis found men produce higher levels of COVID-19 plasma antibodies than women. NHS Blood and Transplant is now launching a campaign for men who have had coronavirus to donate plasma for the national treatment trial. The new figures show that 43% of male plasma donors so far had high enough antibodies for their donation to be used in the trial. This is compared to 29% of women. Professor David Roberts, Associate Director for Blood Donation at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We'd still like to hear from anybody who had coronavirus or the symptoms. More plasma donors are needed. "But we'd especially want to hear from men. We test every plasma donation and men have higher antibody levels, which means we're more likely to be able to use their plasma to save lives." Anyone who has had coronavirus or the symptoms can offer to donate at a donor centre.

But it's not just because of Covid that men are needed - Neonatal red cell transfusions are donated by men because they lack certain antibodies that women's donations often have. These antibodies are not harmful to the donor but can be life-threatening to a newborn baby. It is one of many reasons why more male donors are needed. Male donors are also able to give blood more frequently due to their blood having higher iron content and men having higher blood volume. Sadly, though, only 41% of new donors are men, meaning many more are needed to sign up. Find out more at [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk)





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## Do you watch us on YouTube?

If you use YouTube, we'd be really grateful if you could subscribe to our channel.....  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1PS5ox80YSZj71WMDHVmQ?fbclid=IwAR2kh47mOQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFqemJ3TwylalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnI>  
Just click on the red 'Subscribe' button on the top left of the screen and click 'sign in'.

Or from the TV, on the You Tube page, under 'Subscriptions' click 'sign in'.  
This will help us get a 'proper' url. (That's the link to the morning service that we include each week.) Subscribing doesn't cost anything as this is a free channel.

You can find a Subscribe button under any YouTube video or on a channel's page. Once you subscribe to a channel, any new videos it publishes will show up in your Subscriptions feed. You may also start getting Notifications when a channel you subscribe to publishes new content.

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## Just for fun!

How well do you know your hymns? Why not try this puzzle from Rev Sheila's cousin?

The following 16 are the first or last lines of Wesley's hymns with the vowels removed.....

1. LL TH HGHT F HLNSS
2. ND GD S SN BY MRTL Y
3. ND W SHLL LL B LST N GD
4. CM DVN NTRPRTR
5. CM LT S S TH GRC DVN
6. CM SNNRS T TH GSPL FST
7. HL TH DY THT SS HM RS LLL
8. KNW THT MY RDMR LVS
9. JSS W THS BY
10. MT ND RGHT T S T SNG
11. TH WH CMST FRM BV
12. BSE T LL TRNTY
13. SHNG T TH PRFCT DY
14. SNG T TH GRT JHVHS PRS
15. T VRY FTHFL HRT
16. T TH HVN F HYNS N JSSS LV

And can you identify these last 4 which have all the consonants removed. They are also all the first lines of Wesley's hymns?

17. A A IE A I OU AI
18. AE EA AE I
19. O O A OUA OUE O I



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## Fancy baking?

Bakewell in Derbyshire is best known for its eponymous (and slightly controversial) dessert, traditionalists will tell you that it was originally a 'pudding' and made with a flaky pastry base; these days it is more commonly made with a shortcrust bottom and called a tart.

But once a year, thousands descend on the market town to enjoy a week of events leading up to its carnival day on the first weekend in July. The carnival queen is crowned and a colourful procession of floats parades through Bakewell's streets. The events normally start the last weekend in June and run all through the week but sadly this year, all will be quiet. So, as a nod to carnival's past, here is a favourite recipe for Bakewell Tart.....

## Bakewell Tart

### For the pastry

175g plain flour  
90g chilled butter  
About 2tbsp cold water  
Milk for glazing

### For the filling

125g butter  
125g caster sugar  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
125g cornflour or semolina  
½tsp almond extract  
2tbsp raspberry jam  
Icing sugar for sprinkling

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius, 400 degrees Fahrenheit, gas 6.

For the pastry, put the flour into a large bowl. Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in enough water to make a soft, pliable dough. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured work surface and use to line the flan tin. Reserve the trimmings for decorating the tart and chill the tart in the fridge for 30 minutes. For the filling, melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the caster sugar and cook for about 1 minute. Remove from the heat, leave to cool a little, then gradually stir in the egg, cornflour or semolina, and almond extract.

Spread the jam evenly over the bottom of the pastry case and pour the almond mixture on top.

Roll out the reserved pastry trimmings and cut into strips that will fit across the tart. Arrange the strips on top of the almond filling to form a lattice, attaching them to the pastry case with a little milk.

Bake on a hot baking tray in the preheated oven for 45-50 minutes until the filling is well risen and golden and springs back when lightly pressed with a finger. If the pastry is browning too much, cover the tart loosely with foil.

Remove the tart from the oven. Sprinkle with icing sugar and serve the tart warm or cold.



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**Tell us about your bakes & share your favourite recipes**

**Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!**

**email: [macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com)**

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## SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

### Sunday 28 June – Conference Sunday

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... <http://tiny.cc/28June>

The Reading is Isaiah 43: 1 – 3a

**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.....**

5 July AM – led by Helen

12 July AM – Action for Children Sunday with Steve Oliver

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

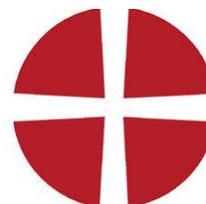


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

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## Contact Details

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Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

Email: [ros.watson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:ros.watson@methodist.org.uk)

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