



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

16<sup>th</sup> Issue: 12<sup>th</sup> July 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,

A few weeks ago, I noticed that there were holes appearing in the front lawn of the manse. I replaced the bits of turf as best I could but the next morning there were more holes! When

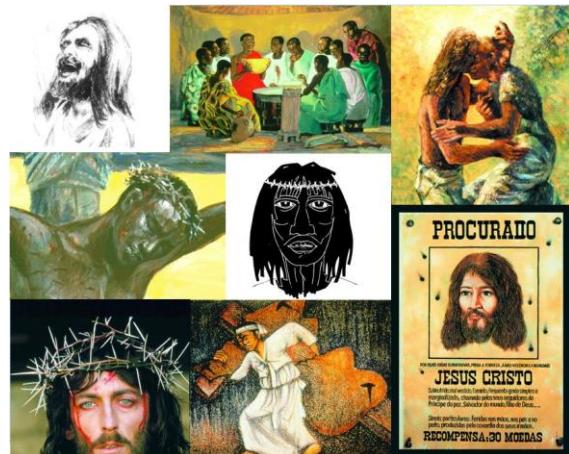


I asked if anyone knew who or what was doing this, I was told it was probably a Squirrel, and advised to put pepper in the holes and on the lawn! I immediately had an image of me out in the garden grinding my pepper mill on the lawn while the neighbours looked on convinced that I had finally lost it – but apparently that's wasn't what was intended! When I thought of the squirrel digging away in the garden, I couldn't help but wonder if she knew what she was looking for, and if she really knew where it was!

We are spiritual beings, and in some sense, many people spend their lives looking for *something*, something that brings hope or meaning, something that gives direction or assurance, something that allows us to see beyond ourselves and even this world.

Some of the commentators on our culture would say that while many people are searching spiritually, they simply don't turn to the institutional churches. Some of the commentators on the effect of secularisation in the last fifty years or so would say it's because organised religion stopped being important to people. This is something I find myself coming back to quite often, what makes faith important to us – and more than that what makes it so important that we are willing to be part of the organisation of the church? And that of course, takes me back to the squirrel. As we share in the life of the church (digital or physical!), what are we looking for? As week by week we search in the Scriptures, in prayer and music, and in the experience of day to day life, what are we looking for? I think we are looking for an encounter with God, to meet with God and know his presence – to be comforted, encouraged, inspired, and even challenged. I do wonder though, whether like my Squirrel friend, we are not always looking in the right places!

About twenty years ago the Methodist Church published a resource pack called The Christ we Share, which contained a fascinating collection of images of Jesus from countries around the world. Each picture represents Christ as a member of the community who created it – a Native American, a Massai and so on. These pictures are a reminder that in Christ, God became one of us – God identified with us by becoming human, and whoever we are we want to imagine Christ as one of us. There are dangers in that though, as we have been reminded this week by the incoming Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, – the historical Jesus was not a



white European man, he was a brown skinned middle eastern Jew. The other danger is, of course, that we hold on to our comfortable images of a Jesus who doesn't challenge us, or rebuke us, or turn the tables in holy anger, and that's not the real Jesus either!

Who are we looking for? We are looking for the Jesus who loves us, who calls us by name, who sometimes tells us we've gone the wrong way and turns us around, who offers us life in all its fullness. So, search, dig holes, transform the world, and let's find that God again and again, and offer what we have found to everyone we meet.

*Come, all who look to Christ today,  
stretch out your hands, enlarge your mind,  
together share his living way  
where all who humbly seek will find.*

Charles Wesley

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.**

### 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, this week's story is the Parable of the Sower. Activity sheets including clips attached.

**Virtual 3 Day Holiday Club**

# One Body with Many Parts

Tues 28th - Thurs 30th July 10 - 11am via Zoom

**Suitable for 4+ yrs  
parents/carers to stay with children**

FREE event but you need to book

**f** @ MacclesfieldCircuit

**✉** To Book: [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com)

The poster features a central title 'One Body with Many Parts' with a red cross logo to the right. To the left, there are two circular word clouds: one for 'parts' and one for 'body'. Below these are social media icons for Facebook and email, along with booking details.

We're really excited to announce our virtual holiday club 'One Body with Many Parts' 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July. This is for children aged 4 plus. There are limited places so please email Angela at [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Here is some more information on how our virtual holiday club will run.

1. Each day at 10am we will run a live zoom session (around an hour) with a story, some magic, songs, crafts, and games.
2. After the live session we will release extra activities for you to complete at home if you wish to. These will be released on our Facebook pages.
3. Your family will receive a free bag of craft and activities needed for each day, plus extra for you to do at your own leisure.
4. You will be sent the zoom link the morning of each session.
5. A parent/carer will have to be present throughout the call, sitting in the background with a cuppa and biscuit is absolutely fine!!!

There are limited places so please contact Angela at [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We would love you to attend all 3 days but if you can only do one or two that is fine, but you will still need to book. We will send you a consent form for you to complete and this must be returned to us (by email will be fine but this will act as your virtual signature). We will be handing the bags out on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, this will be done via the carparks at the churches, but if you cannot make the collection time we will arrange to drop it off at your house.

The virtual holiday club is a circuit event, so you should see a familiar face when you are on the call as we have people leading and helping from each of the Methodist Church's in the area.

*'If you would like to help with the holiday club please get in touch with me, I will be running a zoom training session before the holiday club so don't let the thought of it being on zoom put you off.'*

**Angela**

**Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Broken Cross this week. This prayer has been provided by Anne Fielding.**

### **Let us pray together**

Heavenly Father we thank you that through the use of technology we are still able to meet together for worship through this difficult time, even though we haven't seen each other in person. And we thank you more that we can still know that you are with us, closer than breathing, even though we cannot see you.

We pray this week for Broken Cross and give thanks for the ministry of Messy Church which still continues on line.

As we gradually come out of the exile of lockdown we pray that we might be willing not to simply return to things as they were in the past but to be led by you to discover the new ways you want us to be Church and reach the world with your good news.

Be with our minister Helen while she goes on sabbatical and may she return renewed and refreshed.

For Jesus' sake Amen.

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**Members' voice - by Steve Oliver**

### **Supporting Cre8 after Lockdown**



I was delighted this week to be involved in a couple of small bubble meetings organised by Cre8 to continue their close connection with young people during these difficult times. I've been a volunteer helper at the Cre8 youth club for 11-16 year-olds for the last 2 years and have developed a great admiration for the amazing work that Cre8 do for their community. And I've really missed being involved through the 3 months of lockdown.

The bubble meetings involved 2-3 young people at a time and kept all the right safety and social distancing standards; and it was so good to hear about the youngsters' and staff members' high points and low points during lockdown. Despite all the limitations and frustrations everyone seemed to be in a positive mindset about the future, including about friendships, the prospects of getting back to school, preparing for employment,... oh, and watching football on TV again! In uncertain times it can be so easy to allow ourselves to be swallowed up by a sense of hopelessness and helplessness, but these young people have definitely maintained a lively and positive spirit. If, through our interactions we achieve nothing else other than helping people of all ages to develop a strong sense of self-initiative and hope then all the hard but enjoyable work will have been very much worthwhile.

Although the youth clubs are still closed the bubble meetings will continue. And to avoid giving the wrong impression I must point out that Cre8 were able to continue their amazing work during lockdown in the following ways:

- Project GROW delivered food to those families that needed most support
- The Music project continued its work online helping young people develop their artistic passion
- The youth workers kept connected 1:1 with individuals in isolation

And as lockdown restrictions were eased Cre8 has quickly re-introduced activities that had been previously stopped:

- The 1-1 learning support (Learning Plus project) re-started on June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Cre8's social enterprise business is back up and running, cleaning milk floats for a Manchester dairy

You can read more about these activities and lots more on the Cre8 website:  
[www.cre8macclesfield.org](http://www.cre8macclesfield.org)



**Please support Cre8 in any way you can**

#### **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!

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

#### **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 YouTube 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.

## Community....



The quiet day at The Chapel in the Fields (on Zoom) was very good (Pondering the Psalms). Here is the detail for the next one.

Ruth Gunning

## Online - Quiet Day at The Chapel

using interactive Zoom, pre-recorded YouTube clips and emailed resources.

Tues Sept 15th

Sat Sept 19th  
10:00am til 3:30pm  
Spaces are limited  
email: [tcitf15@gmail.com](mailto:tcitf15@gmail.com)

Drinking from the Well

The Chapel in the Fields, Sinderland Green Methodist Chapel, Sinderland Lane, Altrincham WA14 5SS



The Prime Minister must make this generation of children as central to the nation's Coronavirus recovery plans as health and the economy – that's the message from more than 146 charities, teachers and frontline services in a joint statement.

The charities warn the Government that today's children and young people are facing unprecedented threats to their childhoods and futures. As well as the disruption to their schooling, living standards and family lives caused by the crisis, they have been growing up at a time where services protecting children are at breaking point, school budgets under pressure and job losses soaring.

With family budgets taking a hammering from lockdown, organisations including Action for Children, Barnardo's, National Children's Bureau, NSPCC, The Children's Society and many others, have joined forces to urge the government to prioritise and protect vulnerable children and young people.

## Just for fun!

Try this wordsearch of books from the bible. Can you spot them all?

### Books of the Bible

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

Acts	Habakkuk	Lamentations	Psalms
Amos	Haggai	Leviticus	Revelation
Chronicles	Hebrews	Luke	Romans
Colossians	Hosea	Malachi	Ruth
Corinthians	Isaiah	Mark	Samuel
Daniel	James	Matthew	SongofSolomon
Deuteronomy	Jeremiah	Micah	Thessalonians
Ecclesiastes	Job	Nahum	Timothy
Ephesians	Joel	Nehemiah	Titus
Esther	John	Numbers	Zechariah
Exodus	Jonah	Obadiah	Zephaniah
Ezekiel	Joshua	Peter	
Ezra	Jude	Philemon	
Galatians	Judges	Philippians	
Genesis	Kings	Proverbs	

## Fancy baking?

Bastille Day is the National Day of France and is celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> July each year. This year, it will not hold the Bastille Day military parade due to social distancing norms, replacing it instead with a ceremony to pay tribute to health workers fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

There are no official Bastille Day meals, but there's really no better way to honour France than by indulging in French food! Why not try this one?

### Tarte Au Citron

#### *For the pastry*

250g plain flour  
125g cold butter, cubed  
60g caster sugar  
1 egg  
1tbsp water

#### *For the filling*

9 eggs  
300ml double cream  
Grated zest and juice of 5 large lemons  
375g caster sugar  
Icing sugar for dusting  
Lemon twists to decorate

Grease a 28cm(11in) loose bottomed fluted flan tin.

For the pastry. Put the flour into a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with the fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the caster sugar, then bind together with the egg and water to make a soft, pliable dough.

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface and use to line the flan tin. Chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, beat the eggs in a bowl and add the cream, lemon zest and juice, and caster sugar. Stir until smooth.

Bake the pastry case blind in a preheated oven at 200 degrees Celsius, 400 degrees Fahrenheit, Gas 6 for 10 minutes.

Remove the baking beans and foil and bake the pastry case for 5 minutes or until the base has dried out. Remove from the oven and reduce the temperature to 180 degrees Celsius, 350 degrees Fahrenheit, Gas 4.

Pour the lemon mixture into the pastry case.

Bake for 35-40 minutes until the lemon filling has set. Cover the tart loosely with foil if the pastry begins to brown too much.

Leave the tart to cool a little, then dust with icing sugar and decorate with lemon twists.

Serve warm or at room temperature.



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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**

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## SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

### Sunday 12 July Action for Children Sunday

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham & Steve Oliver

**WATCH ONLINE .....** <http://tiny.cc/afc2020>

The Reading is Luke 4: 16 - 21

**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.....

19 July AM – led by Ros

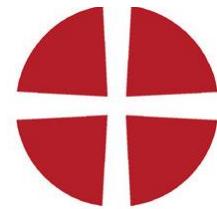
26 July AM – led by Graham

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**

### ***For Children & Families***

Angela Bourne

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### ***Ministers***

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Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

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

Rev Helen Byrne

On sabbatical

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