



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

17th Issue: 19th 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,

"Apart from funerals, I haven't worn trousers in months". Now, before you shriek in horror, this was part of a conversation I had with my brother a couple of weeks ago. We were reflecting on the fact that during lockdown we had both been wearing shorts! So, it wasn't quite as shocking as you may have thought! The time will come when we wear trousers again, but things have changed in the time spent in lockdown - things have felt very strange, but they have also felt familiar and they have felt almost unexpected as well ... not wearing trousers has been one of those things! As we begin to come out of lockdown it's almost like entering a new world, but we find ourselves in a strange in-between place – it isn't what was before, nor is it what will come, it is a place of transition, a threshold which some would say a *liminal* place.

The theory of liminality has been quite popular among theologians in the last few years, and it is used in different ways. Anthropologists Arnold Van Gennep and Victor Turner

(among others) use it to help understand transitional experiences in life - for instance the space between being a teenager and an adult, when a person is in flux, neither as they were before, or as they will be! These kinds of liminal spaces can be disconcerting and uncomfortable – we know what was before, but we can't really know what is to come. In these last few months I think we have been in a kind of liminal place – we know where we came from and what our lives and church were like, but we can't really know what is to come - whether in our personal lives or in the life of the church. Now, here is the bit I find interesting, some suggest that liminal places are really hard and unpleasant, places that make it harder to really know who we are because everything seems to be a bit confused and mixed up, places that we should do our very best to avoid! But



I think the liminal places can be full of opportunities and challenges that call us to see what God is doing and saying. In lockdown we suddenly had to create new ways of doing church using videos and Zoom and found that there were more people engaging with those things than we ever imagined! The experience of lockdown forced us to think in new ways! It will continue to do so.

The church will look and feel different in the months to come, it might sometimes feel a bit strange and it will almost certainly still involve us looking to do some things online, but we trust that God is at work. God who is always creative, who challenges us to let that creative grace flow freely among us, is with us still calling us to follow him. And that's the heart of all this, for two thousand years Christ's disciples have heard the call "follow me" again and again – and when we are following, as those first disciples did, we see God at work in ways we never dreamed of.

If you have a moment, stop, and reflect on these last few months. What has challenged you? What has shocked you? What has blessed you? Most of all, what has God shown you in this time?

We will emerge from this transitional or 'threshold' time, and God will still be with us – his grace will still lead us on as we seek to be followers of his way in whatever comes. There will be a time for trousers again – I just hope they still fit....

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!!!.

Children & Families

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, this week, Jesus tells a story to help us live in an imperfect world. 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

@ MacclesfieldCircuit

To Book: methodistfamilies@gmail.com

We're really excited to announce our virtual holiday club 'One Body with Many Parts' 28th – 30th July. This is for children aged 4 plus. There are limited places so please email Angela at methodistfamilies@gmail.com by the 23rd 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 by the 23rd 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 23rd and Friday 24th July, this will be done via the car parks 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 Gawsorth this week. This prayer has been provided by Margaret Parry.

Let us pray together

Lord Jesus Christ,
teach us to recognise your authority in our lives
and to respond freely to your call
Show us what you would like us to do
And how you would have us serve you
Though the way may be hard and we want to resist
Inspire us, through love of you, to obey your summons
and honour your will.
Above all, help us each day to recognise our need of you
and receive again your love and forgiveness, which you so readily give us.
We come now our hearts open in faith and our lives offered in love.
To the glory of your name
Amen

Members' voice - by Phil Maltby, Poynton

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times – it has certainly been the strangest of times. A time that no one in my generation has experienced the like of before and, for some, a time of great sadness.

It has been a time of self-isolation because, defined by age, we were declared vulnerable – even though we didn't feel particularly so; a time of being unable to hug and kiss children and grandchildren; a time where well-established activities and meetings were put on indefinite hold; a time when, on occasions, living in a first-floor apartment felt like we had been imprisoned..

It has been a time when the use of the huge variety of multi-media platforms has risen exponentially – the use of Zoom for church services, for Bible Study, for family quizzes and for coffee mornings; the use of WhatsApp for daily contact with the

extended family; the increased use of emails to send, and receive, humorous videos and pictures to, and from, all and sundry; and the increased use of the mobile phone for renewing friendships from as far back as the 1950's – not to mention searching for information. We can now compete with the most ardent of teenagers!

Now, as the restrictions ease, we are left with a legacy of 'social-distancing'; of when and where to use face coverings; of establishing which 'bubble' we can safely join; of assessing when we can plan our next holiday; and to try to find what exactly is meant by the 'new normal'.

Part of our 'new normal' has been to increase the frequency of walks that we undertake. We are so very fortunate that, from the front door of our apartment block, we can reach open countryside within minutes. We have 'discovered' an amazing number of 'new' footpaths and have gained great comfort and joy from being able to amble through the absolute beauty of God's creation.

It has also been a time of reflection – a time to think about our relationship with our Lord Jesus; a time to look back through old photographs; and a time to fondly remember previous holidays.

All of these came together when I was thinking back to a holiday in Madeira. I remembered the quaint houses at Santana, the botanical gardens in Funchal, walking the levadas, and two walks with a local guide called Francis.

On one of the walks, Francis, as well as keeping the group well-informed with local information, kept stopping to cut laurel twigs from the undergrowth. I was intrigued and asked him why. He explained that he was having friends round for a barbeque later in the day and would be serving 'espetada' (beef skewers). The beef kebabs, heavily salted, would be skewered by the bay laurel twigs – having been peeled and scratched, this would allow the flavouring to seep from the very centre of the meat to the outside as they cooked.

It struck me that, as Christians, this is where Jesus should be in our lives. We should be living with Christ at the very centre of our lives. His love, his ways and his teaching should permeate through the whole of our beings. Everything we say and do should be influenced by the 'flavour' of our Lord. He is the one constant in both the best of times and the worst of times.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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=IwAR2kh47mQQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFqemJ3TwylalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnl> 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....



Silklife Foodbank update

Demand for the Foodbank has doubled during lockdown and we are working hard to keep up. We are providing nearly 200 parcels a month. The team of volunteers are doing an excellent job. They have been super over the lockdown period and we are extremely grateful to them for their generosity. Donations have increased through the Sainsburys drop off point, so much so, that the plan over the coming weeks is to collect from there twice a week instead of once as has always been the case.

Donations can still be made via the collection box in Sainsbury's or direct to the Foodbank at Silklife Centre where financial donations will be used to buy stock.

"If you would like to donate by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Silklife Church and post to Silklife Church, George Street, Macclesfield SK11 6HS. Please put "Chrissie Thompson" on the envelope so I know it is for the Foodbank.

If you want to do a bank transfer it is Royal Bank of Scotland, account number 10186409 and sort code 16 24 32. Please put Foodbank in the details so the treasurer knows to ring fence it for Foodbank use."

Please note that Gift Aid can be claimed if you are a tax payer.

We are always looking for more volunteers if anyone would like to get involved. Please email macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com for contact details.

Silklife Foodbank was established in December 2010 in response to Macclesfield's growing need for on-the-spot emergency food boxes. Each foodbox provides 4–5 days of nutritional non-perishable food for those in our neighbourhood who have fallen on hard times and are temporarily unable to provide for themselves, often through no fault of their own.

We work in partnership with local support agencies and frontline care professionals such as Cheshire East Housing Options, Social Services and Macclesfield Accommodation Care and Concern (MACC). This ensures that we are able to reach to most vulnerable and needy people and families in our town who would otherwise go hungry.

Silklife Foodbank is run and supported by Silklife Church and is stocked mainly by regular food and financial donations from church members and increasingly through the local community. All boxes are given freely!



The Justice and Peace Group at St Albans, are having a “virtual,” meeting with Anne from Just Drop In, to discuss the effects of Covid 19 on the work. All are welcome.

As a “Zoom,” meeting this is accessed through a link available from the organisers, justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com.

Young People and the Covid 19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted us all. None more than young people.

Closed schools, social distancing, an unclear future, uncertain job prospects all weigh heavily on youngsters moving through ages which, at the best of times, can present them with problems.

Many face mental health problems as a result. Estimates from NHS sources indicate a 40% increase in such cases.

Just Drop-In, in spite of lockdown, continues to support young people in the outstanding way it has done for many years.

Zoom Talk

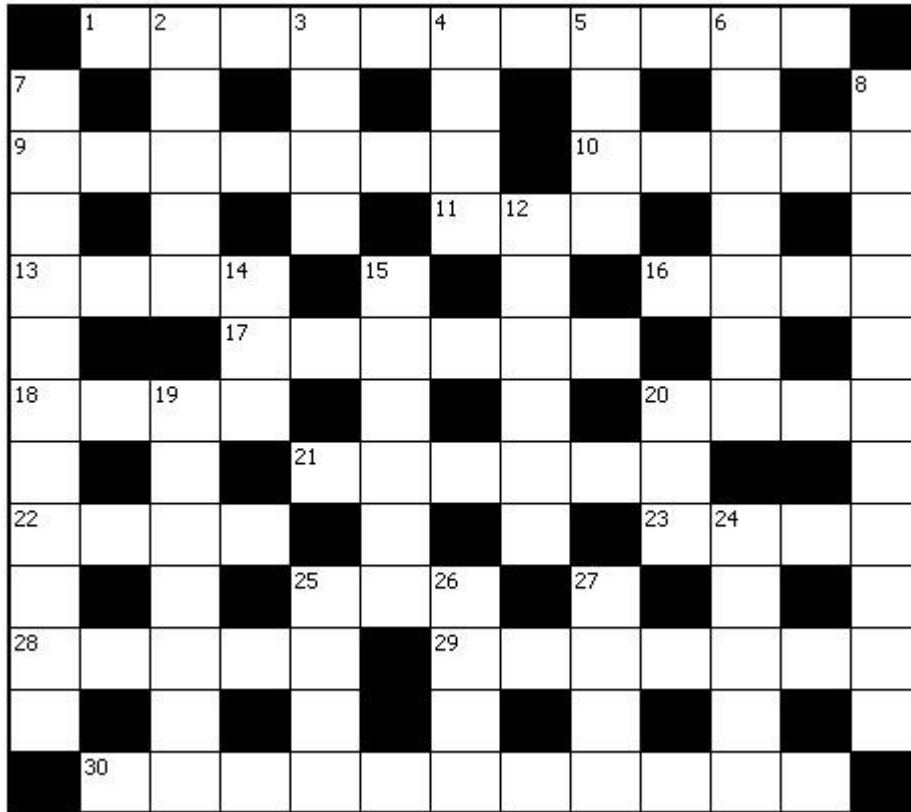
St Alban's J&P invite you to hear Team Manager Ann Wright's talk about JDI's work on Tuesday 21st July ■ 7.30 to 8.15 pm ■ Doors open at 7.15 ■

Please email justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com for a link to join the meeting



Just Drop-In was the Millennium Project of Macclesfield Churches in support for young people.

Just for fun!



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 and 20 Down Lord of all ..., Lord of all..., whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy (11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: Why are you ... your fellow Hebrew? (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline ...(2,3)
- 11 At even ... the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay (3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 Do not leave Jerusalem, but ... for the gift my Father promised (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: We must ...God rather than men! (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, ... Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat ... (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 No fear of me should ... you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you(Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 O Jerusalem, how ... I have longed to gather your children together (Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)

7 Concerning the study of God (11)

8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

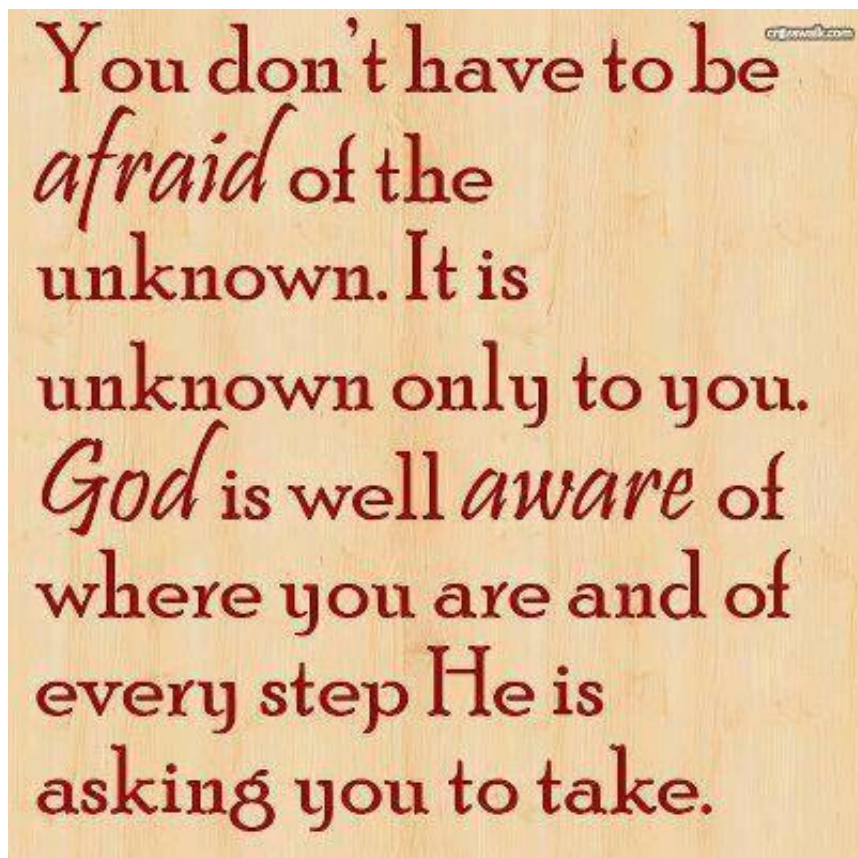
20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

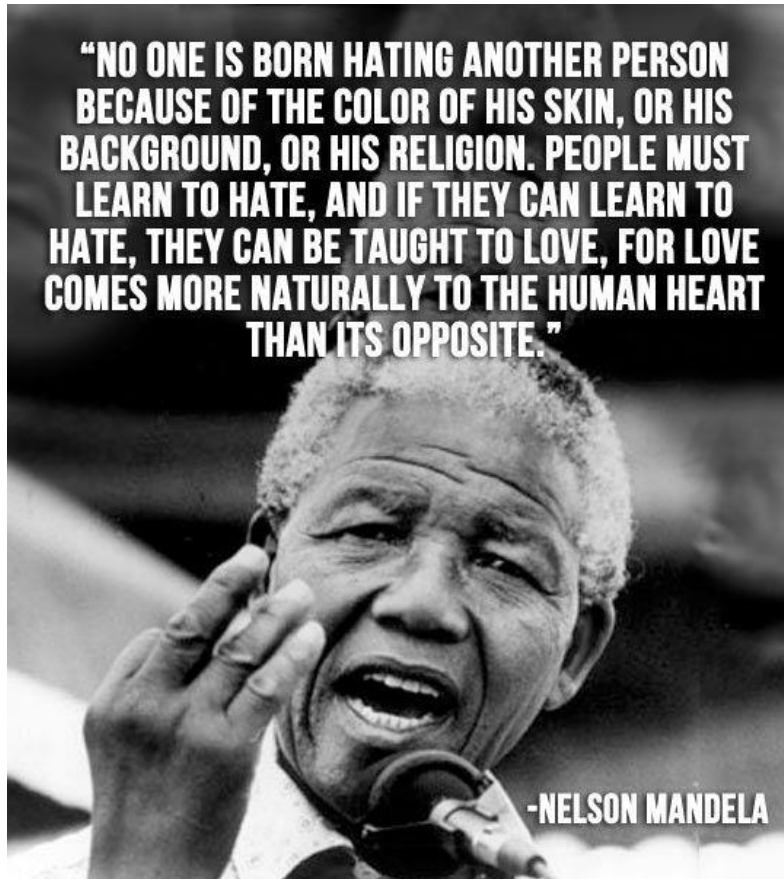
26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 For the wages of sin is death, but the ... of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23) (4)



You don't have to be
afraid of the
unknown. It is
unknown only to you.
God is well aware of
where you are and of
every step He is
asking you to take.

crf.com



Fancy baking?

Nelson Mandela was born on 18th July 1918 and in 2009, his birthday was officially declared 'Mandela Day', a day to promote peace and to celebrate his legacy. It seems appropriate therefore to include a South African recipe this week. Brought to South Africa by the Dutch, this extremely popular cake is served in the afternoon with tea or coffee and is one of South Africa's favourite teatime cakes.

Milk tart cake (Milktert cake)

For the pastry

175g self-raising flour

75g butter, grated

75g caster sugar

1 egg yolk

A little cold water

For the filling

600ml cold milk

50g butter

50g plain flour

25g cornflour

75g caster sugar

2 eggs, beaten

1tsp vanilla extract

A little ground cinnamon (optional)

Icing sugar for dusting

To make the pastry, measure the flour into a bowl and add the grated butter, stir with a palette knife. Add the sugar, egg yolk and enough cold water to form a stiff dough. Knead lightly until smooth, wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge while you prepare the filling.

For the filling, measure the milk, butter, flour, cornflour and caster sugar into a medium saucepan and place over a low heat, whisking constantly until the milk boils and the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and beat in the eggs, a little at a time and finally the vanilla extract.

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius, 350 degrees Fahrenheit, 170 degrees Celsius fan-assisted, gas 4.

Remove the pastry from the fridge, roll out on a lightly floured surface and line a 20cm/8in tart tin. Pour in the filling, sprinkling lightly with ground cinnamon and place in the centre of the preheated oven, baking for about 25 minutes.

Leave to become cold. Before serving, lightly dust with a little sifted 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, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 19 July

AM – Morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE <http://tiny.cc/trinity6>

The Reading is Mark 4: 35-41

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.....

26 July AM – led by Graham

2 August AM – led by Ros

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

Tel: 07901 777506

Email: methodistfamilies@gmail.com

Ministers

Rev Graham Edwards

Tel: 01625 426051

Email: graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk

Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

Email: ros.watson@methodist.org.uk

Rev Helen Byrne

On sabbatical
