



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

18th Issue: 26th 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,



About twenty years ago my family I and were driving home along Queen's Drive in Liverpool. We noticed a bit of a commotion ahead on the opposite side of the carriageway, and slowly realised it was several police cars, escorting the Queen and Prince Philip! We watched and then began to ask, "was that really her", "what's she doing

down here?" "does she know this is Queen's Drive" "have you ever seen her before?" and so on. Just a fleeting glimpse of the car, and the Queen in the back was enough to start a conversation! A few years ago, I appeared on Songs of Praise, as part of a piece on The Wesley Playhouse where I was the minister. I only appeared for a few short seconds, but a day or two later someone said "I saw you on Songs of Praise,"

I prepared myself to humbly acknowledge my fame, then she continued "- well I think I did", and that was the end of it... not good for my ego, but I am almost over it now... When it is the right person, even a fleeting glimpse of them can be enough to excite or amaze or delight someone! Last year I was driving through Liverpool on the afternoon of the Champions league match between



Liverpool and Barcelona and saw an enormous crowd outside the Barcelona team hotel. They were desperate to catch a glimpse of the players especially Lionel Messi. That crowd wasn't expecting a long conversation with the players; we weren't expecting the Queen to come round for a cup of tea (I'm sure she'd have been welcome though!) – just a glimpse was enough.

The New Testament is full of people who meet Jesus. Some have long encounters with him, but many have fleeting glimpses of him, and those moments change everything. The fishermen in the boat who hear a man calling to them "follow me" and

they do! The guests at a wedding who realise the best wine has been served last. Zacchaeus who climbs a tree just to see for himself. The haemorrhaging woman who reaches out simply to touch Jesus' cloak and is healed. The man lowered through a roof by his friends to Jesus feet. Blind Bartimaeus who called out as Jesus passed! The crowd of five thousand who came to hear Jesus and were miraculously fed! Those encounters start something, they spark something deep within, they challenge something, they demand something – but they can't be ignored!

There are an unlimited number of ways we come to faith, sometimes it's like a Damascus road for us, and sometimes it's a slow process, and sometimes its anywhere in between! But we catch a glimpse of God, perhaps it spurs us immediately to fall to our knees to meet with God, and perhaps it almost subconsciously spurs us to keep looking for more. Of course, I think we all long to keep seeing those glimpses of God, and they come in all sort of places. Pope Francis said:

Our life is not given to us like an opera libretto, in which all is written down; but it means going, walking, doing, searching, seeing.... We must enter into the adventure of the quest for meeting God; we must let God search and encounter us.

We need to keep searching, keep our eyes and ears and hearts open for God in the world – because in that search life in all its fullness is found.

These last few months have been strange for us all, but more people have been part of our worship that we expected, more people, we pray, might just have caught a glimpse of God and his love for them as churches across our town, our county, and our world have thrown the (digital) doors wide open in a way never seen before! God has been at work even in all the mess of lockdowns and isolations and rules! Our job now, is to keep finding ways to offer people those transforming glimpses of God!

When we see sometimes wonderful, the first thing we often want to do is tell someone! So, when you catch a glimpse of God, of his love, his grace his power, his peace – so that they might find the treasure we know in God.

In the meantime, friends, as the world changes around us, keep your eyes peeled, because God is at work!

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 gives his followers five examples of what the kingdom of God is like. Some are about the way it grows and spreads, others stress its value compared to anything else in life. Jesus used parables to illustrate the examples.

Activity sheets including clips attached.

Angela

Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Langley this week.

Langley Church shares this prayer/reflection with the Circuit as we travel together out of lockdown.

How wise you are O God.
How well you know us.
We are created in your image and are beautifully made.
We praise your Holy name.
You trust us with your world and your creatures.

Their variety is astounding and they were made for our pleasure.
We praise your Holy Name.
A garden of Eden is before us and in our innocence, it is ours to enjoy.
We praise your Holy Name.
But we think we know best. We have learned a little, eaten of the tree of knowledge, and the result has been disastrous. Our innocence is lost and we give birth to destruction.
Now we sew new aprons of fig leaves and hide our faces behind masks. We are estranged from each other, afraid and unsure of our future.
We hide from you ashamed and alone, but still you come looking for us.
You share our pain, you give us the means and the skills to live differently.
Come to us in our shame, bear with us as we try to give birth to a new and better way of living.

Amen.

From Pesky Facebook Group

Members' voice - by Ann Eden, Macclesfield

Flower Ministry

Flowers at Church celebrate God's goodness and gifts to us all; they are a fitting reminder of his glory and grace. I know that the church flowers bring a lot of joy both for those who see them each week in church, and those who receive them, often with a visit.

I have been on the flower team at Macclesfield Methodist church for many years. I am fortunate to have a large garden and be particularly keen on growing flowers. In the summer months, when it is my week for flowers, I enjoy using flowers from my garden and sharing them with the congregation. As we have been unable to enjoy worship in the physical building we are still meeting by other means. Therefore I decided that each week I would share a vase of flowers from my garden as 'church flowers'.

The first week was 29th March with a vase of mixed daffodils all of which had been blown over the previous night. These I referred to as 'rescued flowers' referring to a phrase by Helen Yemm, gardening columnist in the Telegraph.

Each week I try to write a paragraph relating to the flowers chosen. This may be tips on growing them (how to keep slugs off hostas), why I have that particular flower in the garden (a school project to create a fairy garden with my granddaughter), family favourites (Mark's super wisteria covering the back wall of our house) or random associations (Rhapsody in Blue is my favourite rose and also one of my favourite pieces of music).

Capturing the flowers in the moment in a photograph is an advantage over arranging them in church. A single rose was just perfect when photographed on Saturday evening but wide open by Sunday. The disadvantage of not seeing them live is the lack of perfume. I wish I could somehow package that up and transmit it, as in an arrangement I called pot pourri of sweet peas, roses, pinks, honeysuckle and lavender.



I have found it delightful that the 'church flowers' have been distributed widely and I have enjoyed reading people's comments and personal stories relating to them.

The ministry of flowers has extended wider during lock down than under normal circumstances.

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=IwAR2kh47mOQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFqemJ3TwyIalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnl> 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.

Helen's Blog

<https://questforspirituality.com/>

I've created my first ever blog! Still a big novice at this so hope it looks okay. I'll try to update it as often as possible - daily is my aim. I've put yesterday's post up for now as my first one, and today's is already on facebook but will add it here soon. I'll also put excerpts from my journal here, but need to get a bit more confident in using it first!

Once I get more confident in a few days I will only be posting on my blog (and I presume I'll be able to share a link from my blog to fb for those who follow me there). For most of the church folk who know me and who might be interested in knowing what I'm doing on my sabbatical, this is the place to go to. So feel free to share the link with anyone who may be interested - just please tell them it will improve with time!.....

I haven't put any email contact on there deliberately as not planning on asking for feedback - or at least not until I've worked out how to do that!.....

Hope you like it: God be with you till we meet again
Helen

Community....



Save the Children

Coronavirus has left many UK parents struggling to stay afloat. An extra £20 per week in social security could be the lifeline that pulls families through. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Save the Children are urgently calling for the Government's lifeline measures to be extended for families with children, with an urgent, temporary, £20 per week increase to the child element of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit to support those struggling to stay afloat and help prevent another wave of families being swept into hardship.

They have set up a petition

<https://action.savethechildren.org.uk/page/61907/data/1> to help families get through the crisis and change the future.



Nestlé has announced that from October 2020 KitKats will no longer contain Fairtrade cocoa and sugar. Instead, Nestlé is moving to the promotion of its own Cocoa Plan and the Rainforest Alliance certification. As a result 27,000 sugar and cocoa farmers will lose the Fairtrade Premium annually, to be replaced by funds promised over the next two years and an alternative premium without the same guarantees as Fairtrade.

Join with us in supporting hard-working producers and their wider communities. Please ask Nestlé to

reconsider its withdrawing from Fairtrade on cocoa and to make sure that KitKat in the UK remains fairly traded.

Take Action: –

1. Sign the petition at Change.org – <http://chnng.it/TzQPFYNCVS>
2. Write to Nestlé to ask the company to continue to support Fairtrade or otherwise to guarantee that farmers will not be worse off, either financially or in terms of their control over the premiums, now or in the future.
If you can keep your message down to 1000 characters you can use the online form here: – <https://apps.nestle.co.uk/nestle/contact/>
3. Or Tweet to Nestlé using the twitter handle @NestleUKI



East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

Charity shops run by East Cheshire Hospice are back in business with a new-style operation. Their long-awaited return after being closed for more than three months has brought an amazing response from both donors and customers. An advance booking system means items are donated in a safe and controlled manner. The Hospice can only accept a maximum of four bags for each allocated slot and cannot receive books, CDs, DVDs, toys and soft toys.

Bookings via 01625 511997 can be made between 10 am and 3 pm and use of Gift Aid will further support the charity.

The same telephone number can be used to arrange collection of unwanted furniture. Michele Slack has started her new role as furniture co-ordinator/assistant manager. She said: “We’re on the lookout for good quality furniture. We were desperate to get the shops up and running again and huge numbers have donated items since we began accepting them late last month. Many donors said they held on to stuff because they wanted to give it to the Hospice.”

Fraud linked to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Test and Trace is a vital tool but it does provide opportunity for fraudsters to take advantage.

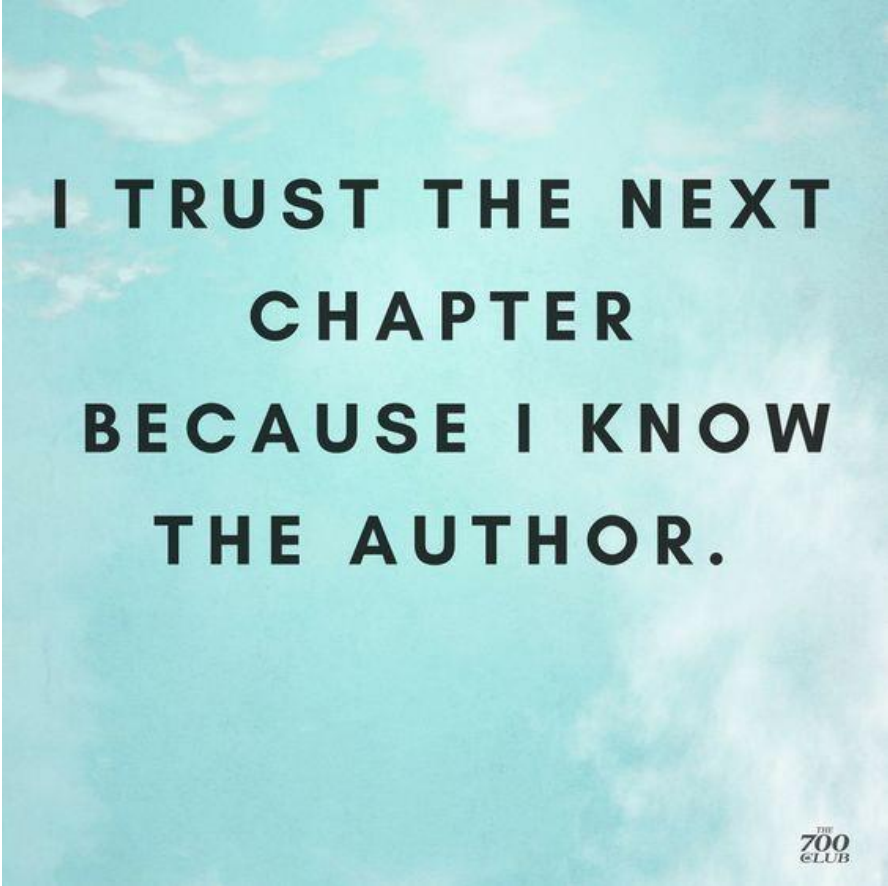
The Government has issued some guidance about how people will know they are being contacted by a genuine contract tracer.

The NHS Test and Trace service will contact you by email, text message or phone. If the service calls you, it will be from 0300 0135000. If it texts you, it will be from 'NHStracing'.

You'll be asked to sign into the NHS Test and Trace website. You'll then need to provide your contact information, as well as details of the places you've been and the people you've been in close contact with.

You will not be asked:

- for bank details or to make a payment
 - for details of any other accounts, such as your social media
 - to set up a password or PIN number over the phone
 - to call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087
 - for anyone to visit you at home
-



**I TRUST THE NEXT
CHAPTER
BECAUSE I KNOW
THE AUTHOR.**

THE
700
CLUB

Just for fun!

Sudoku

			3		4		8	9
			9	5	1			2
	7		8			3	1	5
3		2				4	5	
7	6						9	1
	5	1				8		3
2	1	6			3			
8			1	4	9			
5	4		7		6			

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Fancy baking?



Schools out for Summer. Think lazy days at the beach (well, perhaps in previous years??), Granelli's is back open again and after months of lockdown surely we all deserve a treat!

Did you know that in America, July is Ice Cream Month? Established by the American Dairy association in conjunction with President Ronald Reagan and Walter Dee Huddleston, a Senator from Kentucky. On the backs of this incredibly official declaration, the Ice Cream companies began publicising the day, encouraging people to go out and enjoy this cold delight as often as possible during the month of July. Ice Cream was first said by some to be created in Ancient Greece, before the idea of a refrigerator ever came to pass. The so-called "Ice Cream" was incredibly rudimentary, being a mixture of snow honey and fruit, but it was still the beginnings of a great tradition.

The first true Ice Cream was said to be introduced by Catherine de' Medici in the 16th century. So impressed was Charles I of England (one hundred years after this introduction) that he paid to keep the formula secret, making ice cream a royal prerogative, utterly unobtainable by the common man. The first recorded recipes didn't exist until the 18th century.

You don't need to have an ice cream maker for this seasonal recipe.

Plum ice cream

800g plums (such as Victoria) cut in half and stones removed
100g caster sugar
8 sprigs of mint, to decorate

For the ice-cream base
4 eggs, separated
100g caster sugar
300ml double cream

You will need a 1.5-2 litre (2.5-3.5-pint) freezer-proof container with a lid. Place the plums in a wide-based saucepan, add the sugar and stir gently over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes until the sugar has dissolved. Cover with a lid and gently stew for 10-15 minutes or until the plums have broken down.

Tip the stewed plums into a sieve set over a measuring jug and use a wooden spoon to push the plums through the sieve to remove the skins and any stray stones. Set the puree aside to cool.

For the ice cream, whisk the egg whites in a large bowl with an electric hand whisk until stiff and like a cloud. Gradually add the sugar, whisking on maximum speed, until it is fully incorporated and the mixture forms soft peaks but is not too stiff.

In a separate bowl, whisk the cream into soft peaks. Stir in the egg yolks and about 200ml of the plum puree until combined. Add a large tablespoon of the egg white mixture and mix in to loosen, then fold in the remainder of the egg whites, making sure that they are evenly incorporated.

Spoon into the freezer-proof container and freeze for a minimum of 6 hours or overnight.

To serve, remove from the freezer and leave at room temperature for a short while to make scooping easier. Spoon into bowls, pour over a little plum puree and add a sprig of mint to decorate.

Tell us about your bakes & share your favourite recipes

Circuit Treasurer, Don Riseley turned his hand to this delicious apple crumble...



Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!

email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 26 July

AM – Morning worship led by Graham

WATCH ONLINE <http://tiny.cc/trinity7>

The Reading is Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-53

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.....

2 August AM – led by Ros

9 August AM – led by Graham

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

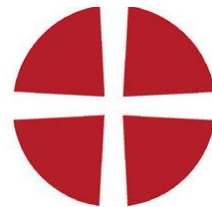


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

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
