



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

14<sup>th</sup> Issue: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020

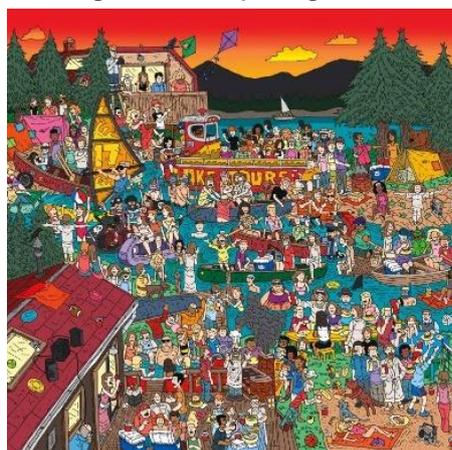
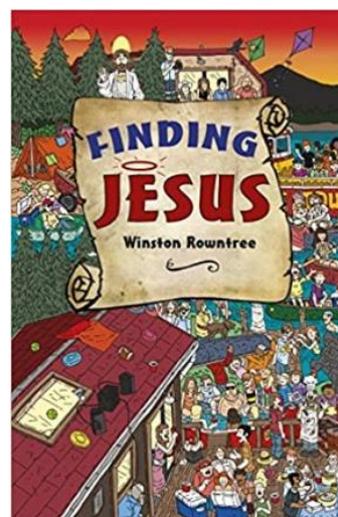
**Due to the current circumstances we can't meet in person, but we can still keep in touch so we plan to issue a weekly 'Mini' version of the Messenger for the time being!**

**Please feel free to distribute 'Mini Messenger' to others who may find it of interest.**

## A message from the Superintendent

Dear friends,

There are many books the shelves in my study, weighty tomes dealing with profound theological questions, profound reflections from some of the greatest theologians in history, and carefully crafted treatises which offer a glimpse into the complexity of even beginning to explore the nature of God. Then there is *Finding Jesus*. It's a small book of less than a hundred pages and its full of pictures! If you want to understand the genre of this book, think *Where's Wally*. Each page has a crowd of people gathered on a lake or a mountain, at a wedding or a cinema and somewhere among them all is Jesus – the job of the reader is to find him. Sometimes it's easy and a quick scan of the page reveals Jesus cheerfully waving on his way to the tea house, waiting in the queue at the supermarket or waiting at the airport gate to catch his plane! Other times it



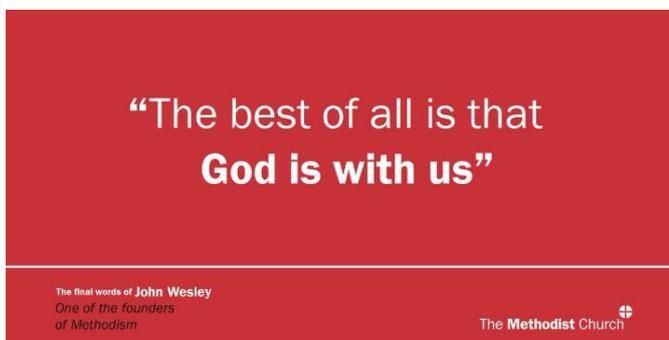
is infuriating, I search and search the picture, yet I can't find Jesus! He is never hidden, but sometimes it's easy to find him and sometimes it's hard.

It is an entertaining little book, but often the simplest things have something important to say! I often find life a bit like the book. Sometimes it is easy to feel the presence of God around me, I recognise God with me as I go about life, as I try to make sense of the world, and as I do the things to which I have been called. Then there are moments when it's much harder, when the busies of life closes in, when the mess of life seems overwhelming, when there is so much happening around me that feeling the presence of God can be a struggle. Yet God does not leave us, even when we struggle to see or hear or feel him, he is still with us, and often we will suddenly become aware of him. Much like the moments when reading *Finding Jesus* I am convinced I will never find Jesus on a page, when suddenly he appears, and I wonder how I missed him when he was so obvious!

But what about when we still can't find God? We must keep looking because God is near. In the Twenty-Third Psalm, the Psalmist speaks of the knowing the presence of God – the one who leads and guides and comforts. "Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death", he writes "I know God's presence". For years I didn't really understand that, and then I heard a Supernumerary minister say in a casual sort

of way “because of course, shadows always tell us that light is shining somewhere”. God is always with us, and his promise is that he will not leave us, in the mess of life – God is with us. In the confusion – God is with us. In darkness and pain – God is with us. So, keep looking, because God is with us. Many of you will know, of course, that the last words of John Wesley were recorded as “the best of all is God is with us”. We have a God who loves us, and is interested in us, and more amazing still he doesn’t do it from a distance, he doesn’t keep us at arm’s length – he is with us. So, let us hold on to those words, in whatever the next few weeks and months bring, however life is, however church is, don’t stop looking because God is with us – and that is always good news!

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 is the final instalment of our Bible Month. Today we are going to hear the last part of the story of Ruth, where she marries Boaz.

Activity sheets including clips attached.

Angela

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**Prayer- in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Walker Barn this week. This prayer has been provided by Janet Dean.**

### Let us pray together

Dear Lord, our chapel at Walker Barn is more than a building. We are a group that lifts each other, and those around us, up. We pray that even though we remain physically separated at this difficult time, you give us the heart to continue in that way. We are truly grateful for all that you provide, and thank you for all that you do in our lives. We hope that we will be together again, soon, at Walker Barn and that when we enter we will feel you all around us and others who join us.

We also pray for our circuit family. Give us a strong sense of spirit and fill our hearts with who you are. Guide us in ways that we may help and support our community and may those in need be identified that we may reach out and provide the support required.

Amen.

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### Members' voice - by Hannah, Year 10

Well, here we are. Over 100 days into quarantine and I am beginning to lose all sense of civilisation. I have forgotten what it feels like to not have a toilet accessible 24/7 and it's very hard for me to accept that when I go back to school I cannot snack throughout lessons. I must have gained over 10 pounds through this experience and I have no regrets. I'm pretty sure everyone went into isolation with the same mindset; this is a unique opportunity to accomplish things we never thought possible eg. Getting fit, writing a book or even learning a new language. At this point in time I would like to ask you one question: how's that going? I started off with four simple goals, and now that we are emerging from this human hibernation I am very sad to say I have not completed any of them, in fact I am even further away from my targets. But all is not lost. The chippies have finally opened, at last there is hope for humanity. I am sad to announce that my family lost our beloved dog Mia, but in course of the tragic event gained a fluff ball with legs. Koda has been our personal project as a family and my parents, having some experience in parenting, stepped right up to the plate. The puppy takes great pleasure in telling the whole world when he wakes up, usually around 6. 45 am, and throwing tantrums when things don't go his way. Delilah seems to be coping very well with the invasion of an infant, and dare I say has matured. My arms have gained some muscle from picking him up at every chance I am presented with and Mum has bought a series of fashionable yet practical items to carry him in. Dobby is thrilled to have another male in the house and Rebekah finally has intellectual superiority over a member of the family. All in all,

Koda has been a blessing in disguise as a lively four-month-old, and we are very excited for people to finally meet him. But for now, I think we'll spend few more weeks pretending there is no one outside of our household and living in our tiny yet functional society of rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, humans and adolescents. Stay safe and enjoy this time of solitude and reflection just a little bit longer.



### ***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....



We are a foodbank in Macclesfield, run by Silklife Church and supported by volunteers and donations from all over the town and from people from all walks of life. We provide short term emergency food relief to people in Macclesfield who are referred to us by various agencies or people. We have a donation box at Sainsburys and welcome and appreciate non perishable food and drink such as UHT milk, cereal, tinned meat/vegetables/ fruit/spaghetti, rice, pasta, biscuits, tea, coffee etc.

As the present situation goes on there is a continuing, if not greater need to support our local Food Bank. The limited reserves of many more people have been exhausted after this extended period of joblessness. Even if you sent a donation at the beginning, the appeal continues.

Food Bank will accept donations so they can buy stock. They ask:

*"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.



### **Trust130 home insurance offer**

For every new home insurance policy taken out with us, we're donating £130 to a church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice through our Trust130 promotion.

### **Small donations making a big impact**

Throughout 2018, we donated over £300,000 to churches chosen by our customers through this promotion. We are delighted that so many churches have benefitted so far, and to help more churches take advantage of these donations we have extended the offer -ending 31 December **2020**.

These donations have already made a massive difference to churches and cathedrals across the country, and while £130 might not sound like a vast sum, these donations can make a big difference to churches large and small. Many churches have also benefitted from multiple donations as more than one member of the congregation has taken up the offer.

Visit the website <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/individuals/>

Or call: 0345 777 3322 Lines are open 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday. (Calls to 03 numbers are typically charged at no more than local rate)

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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=IwAR2kh47mOQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFqemJ3TwyalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnl>

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.

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## Just for fun!

This weeks' puzzle – Sudoku

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

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## Fancy baking?

The annual Wimbledon Championships are the oldest tennis tournament in the world and the only one still to be played on a lawn, the game's original surface. Wimbledon fortnight is steeped in tradition, from the strict dress code for the players to the attendance of the royal family and the all-important menu. Estimates suggest that 28,000 kilograms of English strawberries and 7,000 litres of cream are consumed by spectators over the two weeks.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced organisers to come up with an alternative for the huge crop especially grown by supplier Hugh Lowe Farms in Mereworth, Kent.

This year, 750kg will be turned into jam by England Preserves. The rest will be sold at supermarkets and grocers, sent to schools or given to food banks.

Here is a recipe to enjoy whilst watching the classic action from previous years games on TV!

### **Fresh Strawberry Tartlets**

*For the pastry*

175g plain flour, plus extra for dusting.

2tbsp icing sugar

100g cold butter, cubed

1 egg, beaten

*For the filling*

250g full-fat mascarpone cheese

150ml pouring double cream

2tbsp icing sugar

2tsp vanilla extract

400g strawberries, hulled and thinly sliced.

2 heaped tbsp redcurrant jelly, for brushing.

You will also need eight 8cm(3in) round, loose-bottomed fluted tartlet tins.

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius, 180 degrees Celsius fan assisted, gas 6.

To make the pastry, measure the flour, icing sugar and butter into a food processor and whizz until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Alternatively, place the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl and rub in the butter with your fingertips. Add the egg and whizz again until you have a smooth ball of dough. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for 10 minutes.

Sprinkle a work surface with flour and roll out the dough until fairly thin – about the thickness of a £1 coin. Cut out eight discs slightly bigger than the tartlet tins. Line each tin with the pastry, on the base and up the sides. (TOP TIP: When lining the tartlet tins with the pastry, be sure not to stretch the pastry, or it will shrink back on cooking. Handle gently and ease the excess pastry from around the edges into the sides and lip of the tin,) trim across the top and prick the base with a fork.

Line each pastry case with baking paper, fill with a few baking beans and bake blind for about 10 minutes or until pale golden and starting to cook. Remove the beans and paper and return to the oven for about 5 minutes to dry out the base and to finish cooking the pastry. Set aside to cool down completely in the tartlet tins.

For the filling, measure the mascarpone and cream into a bowl with the icing sugar and vanilla extract and whisk by hand until slightly thickened. Spoon some of the filling into each of the cold tartlet cases and level the top. Arrange slices of strawberry on top of each filled tartlet in a pretty spiral. Heat the redcurrant jelly in a small pan and brush over the strawberry slices to glaze.

Chill in the fridge for 10 minutes, then remove from the tins to serve.

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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 5 July

**AM** – Morning worship led by Helen

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... <http://tiny.cc/trinity4>

The Readings are Zechariah 9: 9 – 12 & Matthew 11: 27 - 30

**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.....**

12 July AM – Action for Children Sunday with Steve Oliver

19 July AM – led by Ros

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

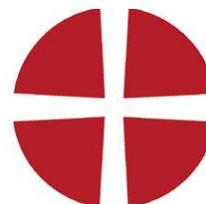


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

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## Contact Details

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

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### ***Ministers***

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Rev Helen Byrne

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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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