



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

22nd Issue: 23rd August 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,

In about 2004 I was doing my Foundation Training, in those days you had to do this before you could candidate for Methodist ministry, and I was sent to do a M.A.



through Leeds University as part of the Northern Ordination Course. This was an Anglican training course that was based in Manchester, Mirfield, and Wakefield. Part of the course was residential and included sharing worship together, from Solemn Eucharists, to daily prayers with the monastic community at Mirfield, to prayers in the college chapel. Despite growing up in a "low" Methodist church I could cope with most of this and found a different style of worship interesting. However, whenever we came to read a Psalm together quite

often the leader would say "we will read Psalm 121 together and we shall observe the pause". I remember thinking "what on earth does that mean?" and looking round at the others to see if anyone else was looking confused. They weren't. So, I pretended I understood and did what everyone else did! Eventually, when I thought I had worked it out, I asked someone hoping I wouldn't look too stupid! Now, most of you will know exactly what "observe the pause" means, but in case there are one of two who don't I'll explain. When the Psalms are printed in the service book there is a red diamond at the end of some lines, this means "when you get here pause"! At first, stopping at the end of a line was quite strange, but then I began to appreciate it. It allowed me to think about what I had just said, not simply to race through the words but to allow them to sink in. Observing the pause is a good thing.

For many of us the last few months have been a time of pause. The usual activities we have taken part in, not least physical church services, have not happened. The pause has forced us to think about what is really important to us, how we spend our time, and ultimately what will we do when the pause becomes a play again.

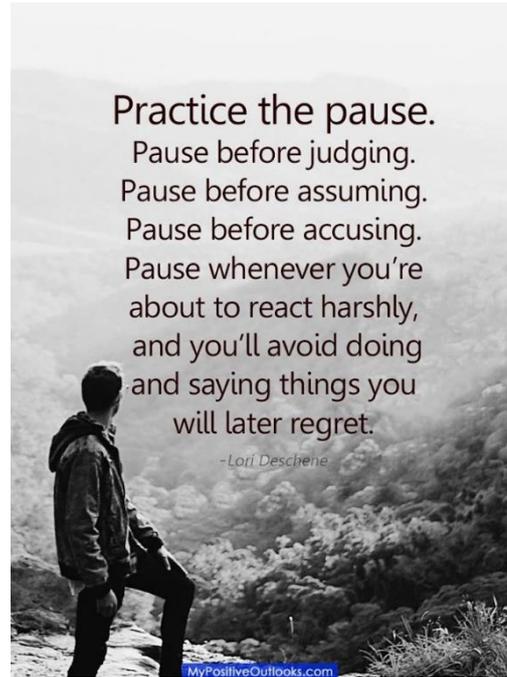
I don't know about all the hobbies and pastimes that people participate in, but when I think about the life of the church, I hate to think we would simply go back to just how we were without any thought or prayer. The pause is a chance for us to ask ourselves what we really value about the life of the church, and if you'll excuse this boldness, what are we *personally* willing to offer into its life. In every church, and in the circuit, there are jobs that need to be done, offices that need to be filled. If you value the life of the church, what can you do?

In the olden days, when I had a VCR I used the pause when I needed to be away from the TV for a moment, then I'd come back and pick up where I left off. I pray we won't do that. Let us observe the pause, and in that space listen for God – listen for the one who knocks at our doors (and the doors of church buildings) pleading for them to be open so that God's newness of life may blow through them.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Psalm 25: 4 – 5

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, Roots have released a resource for the summer called 'Summer Club' which is aimed at the whole family to complete activities during the week however it fits in with them. This week's focus is '**A better story – Matthew 16: 13-20**'. Taking the twelve disciples a long way north, Jesus wants to know if they have understood who he is yet. In the shadow of empire, they declare him to be king, and he assures them that this confession will help them break the grip of that empire on them and others.

With this week's resources we will explore the stories that we live by; who we put our trust in.

Full details attached.

Angela

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

We give thanks for our Church family at Prestbury. Although we have not been able to meet in Church for what seems a very long time we are still thankful for each other. Thank you for the phone calls, zoom meetings and opportunities to meet at a distance. Thank you for those who weekly produce Pews News and the Messenger and all who contribute. We give thanks for our circuit and our connection as we share in the online worship on Sundays.

Recently we have lost a number of much loved members of our Church family and we pray for God's help and strength to all who are grieving. We pray for those in our fellowship who are facing health problems for themselves and for their families. Most of all we are thankful that we serve a God who understands each of us and on whom we can rely totally.

We bring our prayers in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.

Amen.

Members' voice - by Chris Hawkyard, Poynton

The big sin

The shocking pictures of ammonium nitrate explosion in Beirut last Tuesday 4th August was described by the governor as being “a national disaster akin to Hiroshima.” Coincidentally Hiroshima Day is remembered as 6th August. On that date in 1945 80,000 citizens, men women and children died horrific deaths and radiation would add more in the days and years to come. 42 of the 45 hospitals were totally devastated and nearly all doctors and nurses were killed. People caught in the open were incinerated. Three days later a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, killing a further 40,000 inhabitants. It would have been Kokura that suffered devastation but for the fact that weather conditions were unsuitable for the bombing mission. The fuel for that bomb was plutonium whereas the Hiroshima bomb was based on uranium. Both bombs were based on nuclear fission and had a power measured in kilotons equivalent of TNT, but within a few years Edward Teller had persuaded the Americans to develop the hydrogen bomb, thousands of times more powerful and measured in megatons. The Russians tested a hydrogen bomb rated at 57 megatons in 1961. The hydrogen bomb utilizes nuclear fusion, the same reaction that fuels the sun. If such a weapon were used over London the whole city would be destroyed and millions would die.

Luckily, we have not seen the use of nuclear bombs in war since 1945 but we have seen nuclear accidents and explosions. In England there was the Windscale fire in 1957, in Ukraine there was Chernobyl in 1986 and in Japan Fukushima in 2011 for instance. At a time when many risk assessments are being carried out now because of the corona virus you wonder whether this was done for nuclear facilities. Will it take another nuclear explosion before we grasp the truth that humans make mistakes and the fewer nuclear bombs and power stations there are the better. As for testing, Donald Trump is said to be considering a resumption despite current treaties, and he has already pulled out of the intermediate range nuclear weapons agreement.

In Thought for the Day on radio 4 on Hiroshima Day a bishop said that there was a danger that technology is overcoming morality. Kenneth Greet, ex-Secretary of Conference, called the possession and use of nuclear weapons “The Big Sin.” Would Jesus press the nuclear button? Jeremy Corbyn bravely said he wouldn't whereas Teresa May said she would. Nobody asked Boris and I shudder to think what President Trump would do. Meanwhile we continue to spend billions on replacing Trident. I can think of a multitude of better ways to spend the money.

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=IwAR2kh47mOQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFgemJ3TwylalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnl> 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/>

Rev Bob Davies is a supernumerary minister in the district and has compiled this book of stories through lockdown. It includes some pieces from Rebekah and Hannah, and I wrote a piece about being a hospital chaplain through the pandemic.

*To Be Published on 1st September 2020
By Church In The Market Place Publications*

£10 per copy plus £2.00 P&P = £12

LOCKDOWN: LEXICON & LEGACY

An A-Z book with c.100 contributors: observations, experiences and reflections during the 2020 Coronavirus Lockdown

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

£8.00 per copy plus £2.00 P&P = £10

All proceeds from sales will be divided between:

- *British Red Cross*
- *Emmaus (Salford) Homelessness Charity*
- *Gravelhole Methodist Community Shop, Oldham*

ORDER FORM

Please send me ___ copy(ies) of
'Lockdown: Lexicon & Legacy'

Name: _____

Address: _____

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to Rev.Robert Davies

This order form should be sent to:

Rev Robert Davies, 38 Sands Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 ONU

Community....

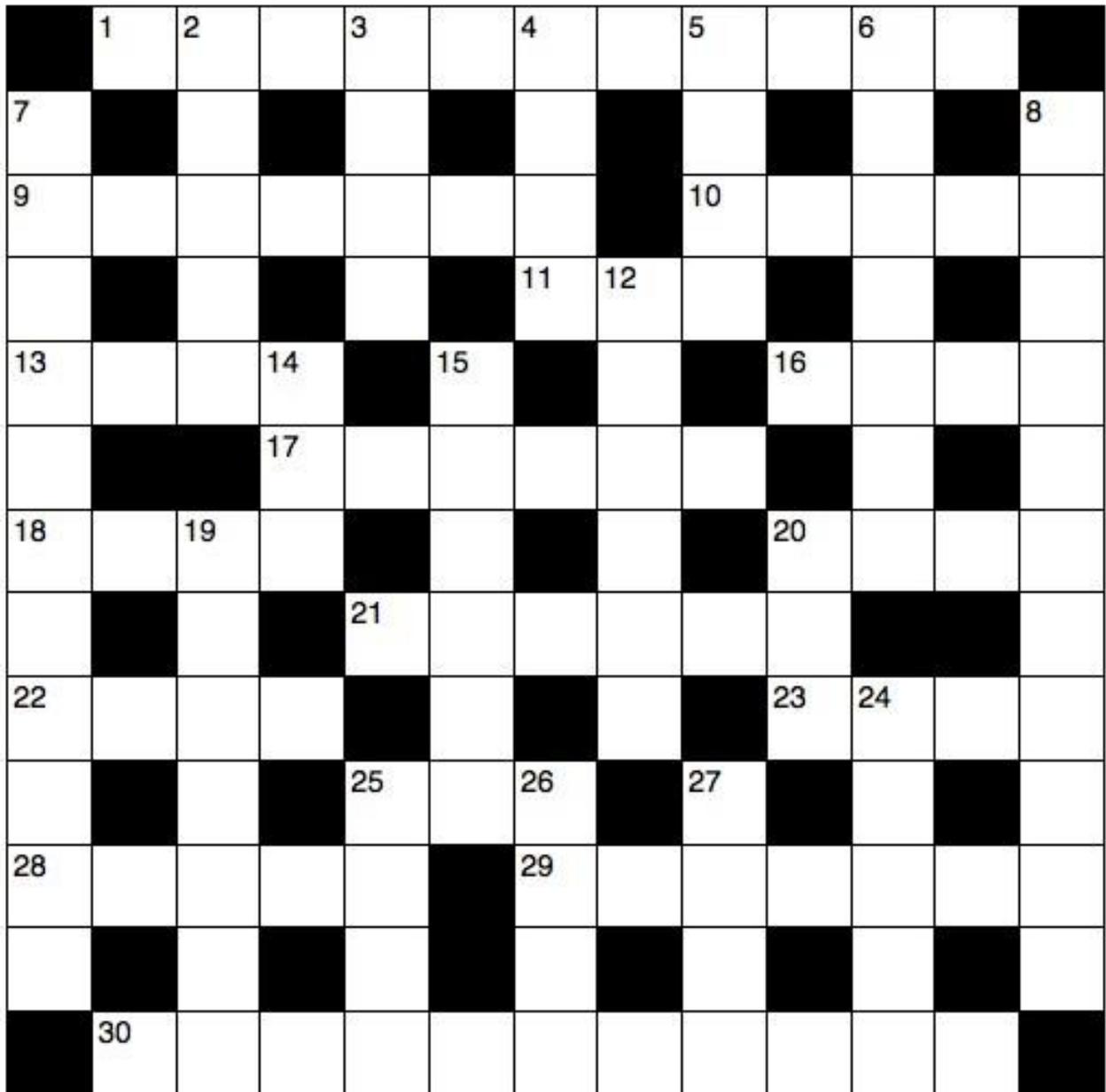
Bats in the church roof?

For those who are bat enthusiasts, the annual celebration of bats will be on **Saturday, 29th August 2020**. There will be bat events for the public taking place across the country. Find out how to get involved and download the International Bat Night Pack from the Bat Conservation Trust website.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/support-bats/international-bat-night>

The first official IUCN Red List for British Mammals, produced by the Mammal Society for Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage (NatureScot) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, shows that four of the 11 mammal species native to Britain classified as being at imminent risk of extinction are bats. These are: greater mouse-eared bat, grey long-eared bat, serotine and barbastelle. A further two species are classified as Near Threatened: Leisler's bat and Nathusius' pipistrelle.

Just for fun!



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)

- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

Fancy baking?

The Edinburgh Castle Esplanade is the spectacular home of the world famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Usually running through the month of August, this year it would have been celebrating it's 70th year - the Tattoo's sustained legacy in Edinburgh over the past seven decades including its enduring ability to link the Armed Forces with society and bring people together to celebrate the cultures and heritage of allies and friends.

Guests would have the chance to feast their eyes on the spectacular sight of the massed pipes and drums, traditional highland dance and fiddle, and the wonderful talents of cultural acts from all corners of the globe. August really isn't the same without it, so this week's recipe had to feature a Scottish classic - shortbread!

Why not try this variation?

Chocolate Orange Shortbread

150g unsalted butter (at room temperature)
200g plain flour
50g golden caster sugar, plus extra to sprinkle
1 orange
50g dark chocolate

Preheat the oven to 190C, 375F, Gas 5. Grease a 20cm square baking tin and line with greaseproof paper. In a bowl, mix together the butter, flour, sugar and the finely grated zest of half the orange by rubbing the mixture between your thumbs and fingertips. Squash and pat into dough – don't knead it – then push into the lined tin in a 1cm thick layer. Prick all over with a fork, then bake for 20 minutes or until lightly golden. Remove, sprinkle over a little extra sugar while it's still warm, then leave to cool.

Meanwhile, melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of gently simmering water, then remove. Cut the shortbread into 12 finger portions, then transfer to a wire rack. Drizzle with the chocolate then finely grate over the remaining orange zest. Cut up the orange and serve on the side!

Tell us about your bakes & share your favourite recipes

Please send us your photos of your finished bakes!

email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 23 August

AM – Morning worship led by Graham

WATCH ONLINE <http://tiny.cc/trinity11>

The Readings are Isaiah 40: 20 -31 and Matthew 16: 5 – 20

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.....

30 August AM – led by Ros

6 September AM – led by Graham

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

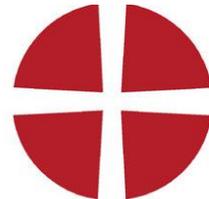


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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

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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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.

From last week...Fake News answers!

I have an identical twin brother who is ten minutes older than me - **FAKE – He is Seven minutes older!**

I once danced in a tutu in a church - **TRUE**

I once co-hosted a church gameshow as “*The Lovely Grahamina*” - **TRUE**

I once transformed from a caterpillar to a butterfly with net curtain for wings in a cardboard tube - **TRUE**

I once worked as a personal trainer in a gym - **FAKE**

I used to have spiked hair - **TRUE**

I preached my first sermon in a church when I was twenty-two - **FAKE – I was eighteen!**