



# **MINI** MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

23<sup>rd</sup> Issue: 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Ros – Graham is away**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that this edition of the Mini Messenger finds you well.

This is my first letter for the Mini Messenger...and you may petition for it to be my last when you realise that, despite it only being August, I am going to write about Autumn!

I know that probably none of us want to think about the summer drawing to a close and the autumn drawing in so soon! To be honest, neither do I, even though I do love the beauty of the autumn colours. The problem is though that, one day last week, as I was travelling in a car as a passenger I looked out of the window and saw a small, dry brown leaf flutter down onto the car bonnet and then disappear as the car moved along. I realised that I had seen my first falling autumn leaf of 2020! And it felt way too soon!

As I looked more carefully, on that dull day, I could see that lots of the bright greens of nature were turning and the blackberries on the brambles in my garden were turning from red to black.

Things change, our seasons change, we change, life around us changes. Everything changes and there is nothing we can do to stop it. Some changes are welcome and some not so.

It is still only August and hopefully we still have lots of 'summery' days still to come. When autumn is upon us fully it will hold its own beauty, as will winter and then spring in its turn. And during each season there will be glimpses of the next to keep us going, drawing us onwards.

The writer of Ecclesiastes writes,

**There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens.**

Nothing stands still. This is true for the life of the church too. Circumstances beyond our desire or control meant that we closed the doors of our church buildings suddenly last March, over the next months we may begin to reopen them again. When we do, whenever that is, what we find inside may be just as we left it but it won't be 'exactly the same', it can't be. Between March and that day we have all been on a journey, we have changed, our understanding and appreciation of many

things will have changed. We go into a future that is much less certain than we thought it would be before the pandemic struck.

Like the first brown leaf fall of autumn, this is not all bad news! With change comes growth, and if we embrace the opportunities, come new adventures. Who hasn't enjoyed kicking through piles of golden leaves, then a few months later breaking the ice on top of puddles, then a few months later again spotting the first snowdrops? None of this would be possible if it was forever summer.

This is a season and as we travel through it God leads us on, ever onward, with glimpses of the future and the path for us to travel. So let's look forward rather than backwards and to new adventures. When we re-enter our church buildings, let's try not to attempt to make everything the same as it was but value the changes that we have all gone through and bring these and new ways that the Spirit has inspired us back with us too.

Every blessing  
Ros

<p><b>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.</b></p>
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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, 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 '**Take up your cross - Matthew 16: 21-28**'. Having acknowledged the truth of Peter's declaration, Jesus tells his friends what kind of king he will be: one that suffers. And he tells them that they too will suffer if they come after him; it is the only way to find the life they seek.

With this week's resources we will explore being invited to share in Jesus' story, which is as tough as it is good.

Full details 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.**

Dear Lord, we pray that you would speak peace into the hearts of those who are worried, fearful, anxious, broken-hearted and troubled.

Thank you for your patience when we look around us more than when we look to you. Help us to look to walk by faith .... To walk without fear .... To trust in you, the one who had told us not to be fearful because you have overcome the world.

(Courtesy of Debbie Kay).

Thus, I remember final verse of the poem 'Footprints in the sand'..

[God said] "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints [in the sand], it was then that I carried you."

Amen.

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**Members' voice** - by Sheila Bishop, Gawsworth

A poem as Lockdown continues but is easing based on the lines from the hymn:-

**'This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it'**

Glad that ministers through the week, have prepared worship so we can seek  
To continue to learn and grow in God's grace, and through praising seek His face.  
Glad for the marvels science gives, hymns, prayers, images teach us 'God lives!'  
Glad to sense, as voices we raise, that many are joining us in praise.  
Glad for the refreshing which Sunday brings, glad for a day of different things!  
Glad also, to believe and pray, that we shall all return one day  
To churches which are holy ground, where comfort, love and hope are found.  
For to be together still we yearn, to play our part and take our turn,

By offering a welcome true and serving others with a brew!  
By reading scripture, arranging flowers, enjoying that most sacred hour  
when we kneel and carefully take- bread and wine for His dear sake.  
And wonder at His amazing love, who to earth, came from above.  
Yet His Spirit is always near, and teaches us His word to hear  
You are my Body, work with Me- for the best is still to be!

### **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)**

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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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### **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=IwAR2kh47mOQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFqemJ3TwyLalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnl> 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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### **Helen's Blog**

<https://questforspirituality.com/>

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### **Community....**



### **Situations Vacant!**

There are a few vacancies for volunteer Circuit roles. Please talk to Graham if you think you could help. (Contact details on the back page).



MACCLESFIELD METHODIST CIRCUIT  
*Sharing God's love*



### **Circuit Representative - Methodist Homes for the Aged**

As the UK's largest charity care provider, MHA enable people to live later life well. Through specialist care homes, thriving retirement living and vibrant community groups and befriending, we inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life. With over 75 years' experience we put people at the heart of everything we do in all our homes and schemes across Britain.

We are looking for someone to take on the role as Circuit Representative, who will receive information from MHA and promote their work within the circuit. You would not be required to organise services, just pass on information from the charity and advocate for them. This can be done in an administrative way - you don't need to be a sales person (unless you want to of course!!)

### **Circuit Property Secretary**

Are you interested in property? We have eight churches and four manses and would like to appoint a Circuit Property Steward who could help churches with annual property schedule queries, highlight any other general property matters and help with general queries.

This role has been vacant for quite a time so if you think it's something you could help out with - we'd be delighted to hear from you!

### **Circuit Secretary**

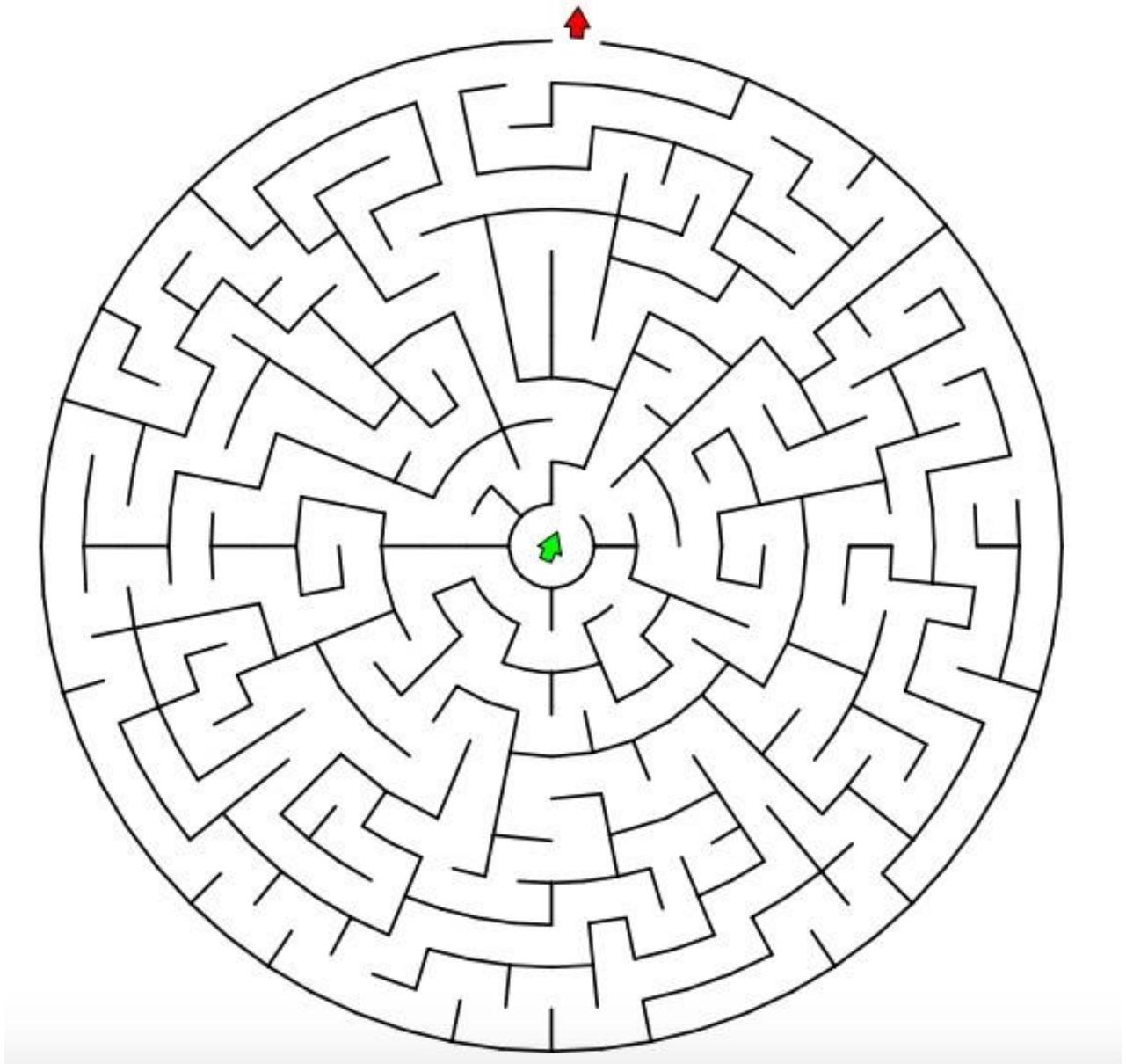
Our current circuit secretary is looking to stand down from the role and we'd love to hear from anyone who may be interested in taking over.

It involves attending the circuit meeting (twice yearly, usually March & September), taking the minutes, sending messages on behalf of the circuit and preparing an agenda.

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**Just for fun!**

Can you find your way out of the Maze?



Parish Pump

Fancy baking?

So, it's the end of August, where has the time gone? As we head into Autumn, why not enjoy summer for a little longer and try a Summer Pudding? This quintessentially British pudding, packed with juicy summer berries is so much easier than it looks and a classic summer delight.

This fruity pudding is said to have started life in Victorian spas and nursing homes where it was served to patients as an alternative to heavy pastry or suet treats. It tastes different every time, as the combination of fruits depends on the season and the proportions used. You can use any red fruits, perhaps you've got some autumn raspberries coming into fruit now or a few blackberries in the garden.

### **Summer pudding**

8 slices of stale, medium sliced white bread, crusts removed  
200g strawberries  
200g redcurrants  
200g blackcurrants  
150g caster sugar  
200g raspberries

Put 1 slice of bread in the bottom of a 1.2 litre (2-pint) pudding bowl, cutting the bread to fit if necessary, then use 5 slices to line the sides. The slices should fit snugly together.

Hull and wash the strawberries, and halve them if they are large. Push the redcurrants and blackcurrants off their stalks with a fork. Wash the currants. Place the currants in a pan with the sugar and 75ml water. Heat gently until the juices begin to run. Stir until the sugar has dissolved, and cook until all the fruit is just tender.

Remove the pan from the heat and add raspberries (leave unwashed as they will lose flavour, along with the strawberries. Spoon the fruit and half the juice into the bread-lined bowl, reserving the remaining juice. Cover the fruit with the remaining 2 bread slices.

Stand the bowl in a shallow dish to catch any juices that may overflow, then put a saucer on top of the bread lid. Place a kitchen weight on top of the saucer. Leave to chill for 8 hours.

Invert the pudding onto a serving plate and spoon the reserved juices from the fruit over the top.

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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 30 August**

**AM** – Morning worship led by Ros

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... <http://tiny.cc/trinity12>

The Reading is Matthew 16 v.21-28

**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.....**

6 September AM – led by Graham

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

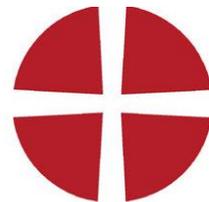


**FREE** phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

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## Contact Details

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

Angela Bourne

Tel: 07901 777506

Email: [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com)

### ***Ministers***

Rev Graham Edwards

Tel: 01625 426051

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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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