



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

20<sup>th</sup> Issue: 9<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 the Superintendent

Dear Friends,



When I was growing up in Liverpool, there was a "pop van" which would go round the streets about once a week selling glass bottles of pop. From time to time, we would get a few of these bottles - Cream Soda, Cherryade, Lemonade and so on. But there was always another bottle, a very special bottle which sat on top of the fridge. It was a bottle of Pepsi, but its lid was so tight that no one could open it – no one, that is except my dad! This was his bottle and no one else in the house was allowed to drink it! I can't be sure about my brother and sister (or even my mum) but I know that when I was sure no one was looking; I tried to open that bottle and get at the mysterious liquid inside!

The Pepsi bottle was not the only thing off limits, inside the cupboard there was usually a packet of Caramel Wafers, that were intended to be part of my dad's packed lunch when he was on the day shift at the factory! We were forbidden from eating these, with the threat of very serious repercussions!



I wonder how many of us have things that are ours, and ours alone. Things we don't want anyone else having, things that we guard jealously and keep to ourselves. Of course, they might be drinks and biscuits, but they might be other things too! Perhaps there are parts of ourselves, our skills, and gifts that we keep locked from others. Perhaps there are things we refuse to give up. In one church service I was leading, I remember someone angrily slamming their copy of *Hymns and Psalms* shut when I announced the hymn from *Mission Praise*! Sometimes, we want to hold on to things we like, and things we are comfortable with in our lives as disciples and in the life of the church, even as things inevitably change around us.



Each year we, as Methodists, share in the Covenant service, and say the covenant prayer. It is not an easy thing to say, but it is how generations of Christians since John Wesley's time (and before as he adapted some material from the Puritan tradition) have chosen to frame their life as Christ's disciples. The covenant prayer is full of very challenging things, but one of the most challenging is this "I freely and wholeheartedly yield all

things to your pleasure and disposal". When we say that we commit all that we are and all that we have to God, and we commit ourselves to let go of the things we hold on to.

The world around us is changing, and the church is changing too. Some of these changes may be temporary, but some will undoubtedly be permanent. Some of these changes may please us, but some may be hard for us to accept. Yet, in the language of the covenant prayer, "the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us". So, let us commit ourselves to God and to each other as we follow our God into the future, trusting that we will know his grace in all things. And that is worth facing whatever comes!

Loosen the lid on the bottle, open the cupboard door, and let us share the feast with all the world!

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.



for their children to attend (unlike a normal holiday club where the children are dropped off).



Children had to book a place at the holiday club, so that we could send them a craft bag, packed with everything they needed for the zoom sessions and extra activities for them to complete during the day. We also provided a parents/carers kit, so that they could have a cuppa and treat during the hour zoom session,



while we were entertaining the children.



Each child got a bag of happiness, with small items in to remind them how special they are and things to help them in life. My favourite item was a heart, this was to remind them that Jesus loves them unconditionally.

Each day we looked at different parts of the body. We started with games with Ann while the children were joining the meeting and once everyone was there, we started the session off with an action prayer. Each session we told parables, listened to music, watched magic, or did science experiments and made a craft together. It was great seeing the expressions on the children's faces during all these events.

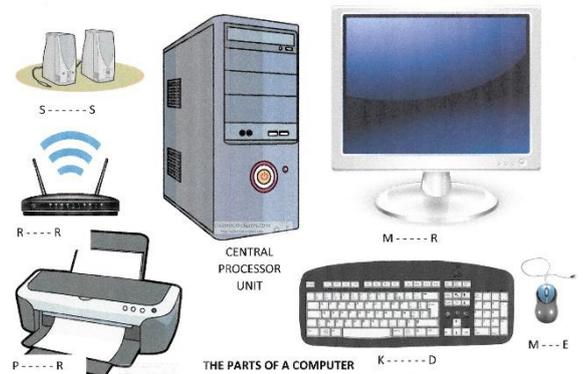


Day 1 theme was head, face, eyes, nose, and mouth, so Annie told the parable of wise and foolish builders in a Godly play style. She used sandpaper for the sand and the children had a piece in their craft bags so they could touch and feel and interact with the story. We talked about using our heads to think about foundations and what our life is built on? We then made listening ears together, as listening to Jesus and others helps with making good choices and foundations in our lives.



Day 2 theme as heart, hands and feet, so Sheila told the parable of the good Samaritan and we talked about how the Samaritan used his hands to bind the wounds, his feet to walk and his heart was full of kindness. We then made loving hands together to remind the children Jesus' hands were kind hands and that he loves each and everyone of us.

Day 3 theme was the whole body, so Ruth told us the parable of the prodigal son, using the knitted figures, which the children are used to seeing. The father watches, sees, runs, and embraces and shows love for the son who was lost. We then did a science experiment on how we need all parts of our body working together to get things done. The children had to stand on one leg and see how long they could last before they put their foot down. We then did it again but with their eyes closed. This was a lot harder. The children then watched a video on computer science and all the parts needed for a computer to work, which Roger kindly recorded for us. We made moving people together and then to tie in all the sessions the children watched a video clip of 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 with Mr Potato head (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFSY-41pVzw>).



We had a few technical issues with sharing videos, but luckily the children could hear what was playing if they couldn't see it. But they had all the links in their extra activities booklets so they could watch it again if they wanted to. Even though it was a virtual holiday club it was still noisy and chaotic, as a holiday club can be.

We have had excellent feedback from the parents, we had one family ask if we could do holiday club each week during the summer holidays. The children loved making the craft items, but the stories and the magic took centre stage. Even though the children were muted during these sections the reactions on their faces was priceless. We all enjoyed holiday club and if the children couldn't attend the live meeting they could still join in with the extra resources and activities.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who attended and everyone who helped in some sort of way to make our first virtual holiday club a success.

God bless

Pictures of some of the extra activities the children did at home.





Holy Spirit, fill our government with wisdom, righteousness, justice, courage, clarity and compassion, as they struggle to lead this country through the turbulent waters of COVID-19. We also pray for those whose selfishness and self-seeking lead them to ignore government warnings and instructions, and thereby endanger the lives of others. Convict them, Lord, of sin, righteousness and judgment to come.

Lord Jesus, be among your people at this difficult and uncertain time. Please guide and strengthen them, and carry them in your loving arms.

In your mighty name, and in the power of the Holy Spirit we pray.  
Amen.

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### **Members' voice** - by Ann & Roger Moss, Maclesfield

Hello everyone

During our daily walk from home via the Lark Hall estate and the Roewood estate we find that people have left out boxes of unwanted books, CDs etc with a note to help yourself, we have found a few books this way. One was called 'Alone on a Wide Wide sea', by Michael Morpurgo. A most unexpectedly delightful read, if you like a page turner and feel good factor.

We also came across some sunflower seedlings, the owners of these wanted a donation to the hospice we duly gave and brought 4 plants home with us. This is the result, little rays of sunshine, that make me smile every time I look out of the window. Even the slugs have enjoyed the leaves. Sorry about the washing in the background.

Best wishes to all, Ann and Roger



### **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....**

  
**foodbank**  
**M A C C L E S F I E L D**

Our dropbox is at Sainsbury Macclesfield, just behind the tills near to the photo booth. All non-perishable items are welcome including toiletries and toilet rolls. The items we need most of this week and are really short on are: Jams and Spreads; Tinned Puddings such as Tinned fruits, Rice Puddings and Custard;

Tinned Pies and other Tinned meat based meals; Tinned Vegetables; Coffee, Sugar and Tinned Spaghetti. Many thanks to everyone who donates already and in advance to those donating for the first time this week. Silklife Foodbank Manager.

“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.

This is a little teaser clip of the exciting video currently being created for us by a high school pupil in Macclesfield. We're all really looking forward to seeing the finished item later this month. Can't wait!

<https://www.facebook.com/SilklifeFoodbank/videos/587131221975547/>



### **Jumpers, umbrellas and plastic bags**

In conjunction with our Heritage work and the Methodist Women's Collection held at Epworth Old Rectory, Dr Ruth Slatter is undertaking a research project into women's everyday experiences of Methodism in England from 1945. Ruth, and her research assistant

Hannah Wilson, are inviting women to take part in a 45-minute telephone or online interview in which participants will have an opportunity to talk about their experiences of Methodism, and to consider what objects or material things have played an important role in their journey of faith. If you're interested taking part in an interview, please contact Ruth by email or telephone: R.Slatter@hull.ac.uk 01482 463456

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Just broke the news to my suitcase  
that we will not be going on vacation  
this year. She is devastated.



Just for fun!



### Wise Up!

Uncover some wisdom from the book of Ecclesiastes by carefully following the instructions below. Are you wise enough to solve this on your first attempt?

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Truth	The	Wise	end	foolish	of
2	a	people	matter	lesson	meaningless	is
3	numbers	better	than	acts	its	world
4	beginning	gift	kingdom	and	wrongdoer	patience
5	lies	is	certain	will	better	job
6	than	knowing	property	pride	celebrate	saint

1. Cross out all the words in Columns A and F that have five letters.
2. Cross out all the words in the table that rhyme with eyes.
3. Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
4. Cross out all words in Row 2 that have more than two vowels.
5. Cross out all words in Column D that have double letters.
6. Cross out all words in Row 4 that contain all the letters in GOD.
7. Cross out all 7-letter words.
8. Cross out all words in Column B that end in T.
9. Cross out all words in Row 6 that have three syllables.



Write the remaining words here, in order from left to right and top to bottom:

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## **Fancy baking?**

On August 9th, many enjoy their favourite dish on National Rice Pudding Day!

A variety of recipes exist for rice pudding. All of them include cooked rice as the base ingredient and combine a milk (such as cow's, coconut, evaporated, or cream) with bread. Sugar, molasses, or honey gives the pudding a sweet taste along with other flavours such as vanilla, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Eggs hold the dish together, and butter gives it a rich, creamy consistency.

While many enjoy rice pudding as a dessert, it's also ideal for breakfast or as a side dish. Since there are so many recipes for rice pudding, the opportunity to sample more than one presents itself. Dating back to the Tudor period, the earliest rice pudding recipes were called *white pot*. One of the first-known methods was written down by Gervase Markham in 1615. After being baked, serve the pudding hot or cold. Add fresh fruit, nuts, or whipped topping. However, raisins are traditional. Other spices, such as nutmeg, cardamom, allspice, and even cayenne, add variety to rice pudding recipes. Citrus zests bring brightness to the dessert that can, at times, be rich and heavy to the palate. Although most recipes call for sugar, alternatives include monk fruit, agave syrup, or palm sugar.

At Barchester Wood Grange Care Home in Bourne, Lincolnshire they will celebrate this day by finding out all the old recipes that the residents used to use and then enjoy some rice pudding with their favourite flavoured jam!

Here is a recipe for a 'tropical' version....

### **Mango rice pudding**

150g pudding rice  
4 star anise  
350g frozen mango chunks  
4tbsp runny honey  
4tbsp Greek-style coconut yoghurt

Place the rice, star anise, frozen mango, 3 tablespoons of honey and a tiny pinch of sea salt in a pan on a medium heat. Cover with 700ml water and simmer for 25 minutes, or until thick and creamy, stirring occasionally.

Stir through the yoghurt so that it is nice and creamy, then divide between your bowls. Drizzle over the remaining honey and enjoy, super-easy!

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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 9 August

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... <http://tiny.cc/trinity9>

The Reading is Matthew 14: 22 – 33

**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.....**

16 August AM – led by Ros

23 August AM – led by Graham

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

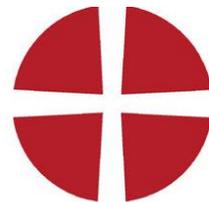


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

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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

Email: [graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto:graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk)

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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