



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

25th Issue: 13th September 2020

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

I never used to bother washing my cars. When I had cars that were a bit rough, or old and rusty it never seemed worth the effort, when I was working in a rural area I assumed that the muck would eventually dry out and fall off, so I didn't bother (I can already hear people tutting at this)! Then as my cars got a bit more fancy, I started to wash them occasionally, and then I found the local *Car Hand Wash* places! Suddenly I discovered the delight of a freshly washed car, shining majestically in the sunlight, or (more often) being rained on immediately after I'd driven out of the car wash! There is something satisfying about going to have the car washed when the windscreen is filled with the remnants of bugs that flew in the wrong place, or "offerings from above" - if you know what I mean! There is something very satisfying about having your vision restored! But I have noticed something, before the vision is restored it gets even more murky and obscured – I could see better before the bloke with the sponge started. It's all part of the process, and soon the clarity I'm looking for will be returned!



I've often sat in the car wash thinking about this, we talk about vision a lot in the church. We Ministers are often asked "what's your vision for this" or "what's your vision for us", others sometimes tell us they have a vision for some new venture. All that's great, but I'm not entirely sure the key part is my vision, or even your vision, it is *our* vision that matters. Our vision that is supplied by God, tested in prayer and reflection, our vision that is rooted in God's priorities and call upon us, our vision that we explore together. Vision

is a wonderful thing, but more and more I am convinced that before we get to the point of clarity and excitement at what God is doing in us and through us, there is often a

time when things seem confused, blurred and unfocussed. There is often a time when we can't really see what's going on.

Think about Peter's vision of the sheet in Acts 10, before he gets it there is a moment when he looks at a sheet full of unclean animals and must have thought "what is this all about?" then God moved and Peter began to put the pieces together. I hope we are beginning to seek a vision of what the church (and indeed our local churches and circuit) might look like in the years ahead – what will worship be like? What will our priorities be? What will we do with all the digital learning we've done? There will be times when it will feel blurred and murky and we'll struggle to find our way, but in that space, I pray, we will allow God to interrupt us. To stop us thinking we know it all, to call us to share and pray together, to help us grasp what God is saying to us, and to give us faith to really see again.

We are entering the car wash, and it will get messy! But let us pray that when we come out the other side, we do with renewed vision

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!

If you're able to get to one of our forthcoming church services, please remember to take any collections you've built up with you. There will be a facility to leave them.

Church finances will still be stretched though, so if you haven't already, why not set up a regular Standing Order?

And of course, don't forget to Gift Aid if you can - it's worth an extra 25% from HMRC for your church.

Your church Treasurer can let you know how you can help – 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's focus is '**How many times? Matthew 18: 21-35**' Peter asks Jesus about the extent of forgiveness. Jesus answers with a funny and chilling parable about a man who is forgiven much, but who forgives very little and is punished by his master for his attitude. This week we will explore what an attitude of forgiveness really looks like.

Full details attached.

Are you a dab hand at sewing?

If so, I need your help!!!!

We are trying to connect with our toddlers at our different churches, as this is still one group that are not allowed to meet yet. I feel not only are the children missing out, but the parents/carers are too. We have been posting things on Facebook for them to do during lockdown, but I feel it is being missed especially if there are older children in the family.

So, I want to try a 'Toddler Group Session in a Box'! The idea is parents/carers collect a box from the church carpark and take it home for a week. Inside the box is everything to hold your own toddler session.

Most toddler groups sing nursery rhymes by selecting an item from a bag or a box. This is where I NEED OUR SEWERS. I need a simple drawstring bag or just a bag, so I can create a nursery rhyme bag for each box. It would have to be 15cm (6") wide and 20cm (8") long. Wide enough to put your hand in and deep enough to rummage around (see picture).

If you are able to help please can you let me know either email me on methodistfamilies@gmail.com or call or text me on 07901777506



Thanks Angela

Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Gawsorth this week. This prayer has been provided by Gillian Biddulph.

Gracious God, you are the same yesterday today and forever.
We celebrate this amazing truth about your nature and deeply trust it in our hearts.
Yet during this difficult time in our lives we acknowledge that faith feels very different and the way ahead seems unclear.

Help us to put our trust in you although the future may be uncertain.

Help us to put our faith in you wherever that may lead us.

Help us to put our hope in you whatever that may mean to us.

So Gracious God who changes not, help us as we begin to re- open our churches again.

May we rejoice in what has gone before,
but never live in the past.

May we have a vision for the future,
but never put off until tomorrow what is needed today.

Gracious God, help us to bring into being
your church of the future.

Amen.

Members' voice - by Stephan and Christine Rudolfer (Green Close)

Where does God want to live?

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with loving kindness."*

Jeremiah 31:3

Some time ago, we were mesmerised by a father looking after his toddler freely running around on a small area of grass close to a busy roadside. The father held his arm right over the child's head, shadowing the child's movements, ready to grab him as soon as he would be in danger. What a moving sight this was for us! That is how God watches over us as well!

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, he told them to pray to God the **Father** (Luke 11:2-4). They must have been very surprised, because the usual way of praying to God was to address Him as the Mighty One, or the Lord, coming to Him in awesome fear with petitions or confession, being very much aware of His holiness. And now Jesus encouraged them to see His Father as the caring, compassionate and loving Father who knew all their needs in advance, and heard and answered their petitions.

The disciples were even more surprised when Jesus told them that He and His Father were ONE (John 10:30).

Now for the most amazing part: Jesus told them "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and **we** will come to him and **make our home** with him" (John 14:23).

We find that mind-blowing. Jesus had told the crowd the parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son, who was lovingly welcomed back by his father and even given a sumptuous banquet in his honour! (Luke 15:11-32.) "*That's UNFAIR!*" would be **our** response. But the father's love was so immense, and his joy so great, that he gladly embraced his son who had come to his senses, returned home and confessed to his father that he had offended him and was UNWORTHY to receive such a welcome.

Such UNMERITED love from a righteous God is incomprehensible, yet that applies to us!

However, we must remember the **condition** that Jesus' promise entails: His father and He will come and live with us, **if** we obey His teaching, namely to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength and with all our mind, and to love our neighbour as ourself!

God keeps His promises; so we must be faithful in serving Him. The hymn *I serve a risen Saviour* ends with the chorus *He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me, along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

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

Please see www.questforspirituality.com

Community....

DISTRICT VACANCY

Methodist International House - Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are needed for an Interim Management Group that manages Methodist International House in Manchester, a property that is used as a halls of residence for international students coming to study in the UK and also to support people without recourse to government funds or in financial difficulties.

The skills and experience being looked for in volunteers are business management, financial management, human resources and charity governance. The commitment is for one year only and the role should only take a few hours each month.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in business management. If interested please contact admin@mandsmethodists.org.uk



It was my pleasure to join the Silklife Foodbank Team in July 2020 as Project Coordinator and I am very grateful to the Cheshire East Council and the Silklife Church who have worked together to make

this post possible. Amid the confusion, chaos and uncertainties of Covid 19, we have witnessed a coming together like never before to ensure that everyone remains safe and no-one is left alone. It has been remarkable to see the residents of Macclesfield uniting together to volunteer support to ensure that no-one goes hungry in our town.

Foodbanks continue to increase in number across the UK as financial hardship and poverty crisis deepens. Silklife Foodbank will supply 4 days worth of food to residents of Macclesfield who find themselves in emergency crisis. Referrals are processed following a professional assessment of need by trained specialists such as social workers and GP's. Prior to lockdown, referrals rarely exceeded 90 per month. However, between February and July 2020 referrals have averaged 151 per month and the foodbank has helped 1354 people in our town providing over 16000 meals. Meeting this rise in demand would not have been possible without the support of those who faithfully donate food and give financially. Thank you to everyone who 'helps us to help others'.

Our team of volunteers was excited to welcome the Mayor of Macclesfield Cllr Sarah Bennett Wake for a tour of the Distribution Centre in August. The Mayor shared with us a message about the importance of showing kindness to everyone.

From Dan Blackman.

Donations can still be made via the collection box in Sainsbury's, Macclesfield or direct to the Foodbank at Silklife Centre where financial donations will be used to buy stock.

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.

A short video shows some of the work being carried out at the Macclesfield Silklife Foodbank during the 2020 Pandemic

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/SilklifeFoodbank/posts/>

Just for fun!

Jesus Calms the Storm

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39

The puzzle is based on Mark 4:35-41 (NIV).



D H P F O T D W G C F L G C U
J D U U E L E N T M X M J O Z
M Y E I L K I R Q E D B S H U
U U Q I O P S K R U A F X H O
T E T W E Q T C H I I C L U R
S S V E Y K E K R N F E H I L
W C L E P F R B C O H I T E J
A S U G N B N D H A W P E Y R
M S X S B I I R Z H L D W D Q
P Q O A H A N P U M N M W A R
E U U B R I T G Q I T M K P Y
D A F F E U O D W A L L C S U
R L A U M Y U N O S F A I T H
R L F A G R R B K T J B F S M
X D R O W N I X U W A V E S T

STERN
OBEY
WOKE
SQUALL

CROWD
SWAMPED
SLEEPING
WAVES

FAITH
WIND
BOAT
CUSHION

CALM
AFRAID
EVENING
TERRIFIED

TEACHER
DROWN
STILL
QUIET

As the children return to school, one for all of us to remember.....

Be still, and know I am God. *(Psalm 46:10)*

All things God works for the good. *(Romans 8:28)*

Cast all my anxiety on Him. *(1 Peter 5:7)*

Know whose I am! *(1 John 3:1)*

Trust in the Lord with all my heart. *(Proverbs 3:5)*

Open my eyes to see the truth. *(Psalm 119:18)*

Show me your ways, Lord. *(Psalm 25:4)*

Create in me a clean heart. *(Psalm 51:10)*

He who is in me is greater... *(1 John 4:4)*

Obey the Lord my God. *(Deut. 27:10)*

Oh Lord, you are my strength & shield. *(Psalm 28:7)*

Let love and faithfulness never
leave me. *(Proverbs 3:4)*

Fancy baking?

September 13th is **Roald Dahl's** birthday and if he were alive today, he'd be 104 this year. His books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide.

Dahl was born in Wales to Norwegian immigrant parents. He served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. He became a fighter ace, scoring 5 confirmed victories, and, subsequently, an intelligence officer, rising to the rank of acting wing commander. He rose to prominence as a writer in the 1940s with works for children and for adults, and he became one of the world's best-selling authors. He has been referred to as "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century". His awards for contribution to literature include the 1983 World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement and the British Book Awards' Children's Author of the Year in 1990. In 2008, *The Times* placed Dahl 16th on its list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".

James and the Giant Peach (1961; film 1996), written for his own children, was a popular success, as was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), which was made into the films *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005). His other works for young readers include *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (1970; film 2009), *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* (1972), *The Enormous Crocodile* (1978), *The BFG* (1982; films 1989 and 2016), and *The Witches* (1983; film 1990). One of his last such books, *Matilda* (1988), was adapted as a film (1996) and as a stage musical (2010).

This week's recipe therefore takes a cue from Charlie and had to feature 'chocolate'! It's also dairy and wheat free so a great one for those with allergies.....

Chocolate Olive Oil Cake

150ml regular olive oil, plus extra for greasing
50g cocoa powder, sifted
125ml boiling water
2 tsp vanilla extract
150g ground almonds
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
Pinch salt
200g caster sugar
3 free range eggs

Preheat the oven to 170c/325F/Gas 3. Grease a 23cm/9in springform cake tin with a little oil and line the base with baking parchment or use a greaseproof cake tin liner.

Measure and sift the cocoa powder into a bowl or jug and whisk in the boiling water until you have a smooth, chocolatey, still runny (but only just) paste. Whisk in the vanilla extract, then set aside to cool a little.

In another smallish bowl, combine the ground almonds with the bicarbonate of soda and a pinch of salt.

Put the sugar, olive oil and eggs into a bowl and whisk vigorously for about three minutes until you have a pale-primrose, aerated and thickened cream.

Turn down the speed of the whisk and pour in the cocoa mixture, beating continuously, then slowly add the ground almond mixture. Scrape down the side of the bowl with a spatula, then pour the batter into the tin.

Bake for 40-45 minutes or until the sides are set and the very centre still looks slightly damp. A skewer should come out mainly clean but with a few sticky chocolate crumbs clinging to it.

Still in the tin, allow to cool for 10 minutes on a wire rack, then remove gently and leave to cool completely or eat warm with ice cream as a pudding.



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 13 September

AM – Morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE <http://tiny.cc/trinity14>

The Reading is Romans 14 v.1-12

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.....

20 September AM – led by Graham

27 September AM – led by Ros

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

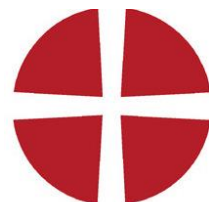


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

Contact Details

For Children & Families

Angela Bourne

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Ministers

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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
