



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

28<sup>th</sup> Issue: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

## A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

"I don't like cheese" those words were said to me in a conversation I had this week. I can't remember how we got there, because the shock has pushed everything else out of my mind. "Do you mean you don't like certain cheese, like blue cheese for instance" I asked "no, I don't like cheese". I have found myself



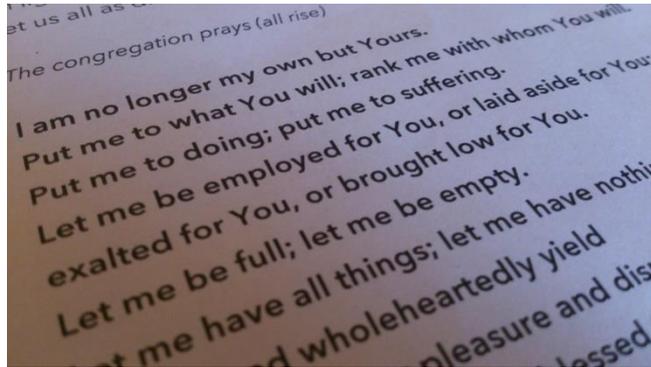
reflecting on this ever since – how can someone not like cheese? I struggle to make sense of... cheese is delicious in so many ways, in a sandwich, on toast, on some pasta, in a cheese sauce, on a stick with pineapple (in the 80s fashion!), on a pizza, and the list goes on and on! Cheese comes in so many delightful shapes, and colours and textures - how can anyone say they don't like cheese, when I am so fond of it! If I like it, surely everyone must!

Of course, we know the world doesn't work like that! But more and more we hear people talking about what they want, what they like, what they deserve without really understanding what that means for anyone else. I think there are times when we see something of that in the life of the church too – and just for the avoidance of any doubt, I'm very sure I'm as guilty as anyone else! We like things we like; we like things that we are comfortable with, and we often like things to go our way. Yet that is not the path we are called to, as Gods church we are called to form community in which we help each other encounter God, community through which all might be offered a vision of God's love lived out in the world.

In his book *Christianity Rediscovered*, Vincent Donovan talks about his experience as a missionary among the Masai people, and his attempts to make sense of Christianity with the tribe. A Masai would convey forgiveness by spitting, and so a baptismal service would include the symbol of spitting; a tuft of grass is peace to them, and so the hand to hand passing of blades of grass would occur in a worshipful context. Did Donovan like all that? I don't know, but that isn't the point, those things communicated the good news of Jesus Christ. The late John Stott suggests that "unless their favourite phraseology is used (whether the Kingdom of God, or the blood of Jesus, or human liberation, or being born again, or justification by faith, or the cosmic Lordship

of Christ), [some Christians] roundly declare that the gospel has not been preached". It is always challenging to realise that sometimes God communicates in ways I like, and ways I understand – and sometimes God doesn't. Our job as disciples of Christ is to listen in all kinds of ways and all kinds of places for the voice of God, and to create opportunities for others to hear God too. What we like is, I think, secondary!

I saw a post on social media a few weeks ago where someone said this "the Methodists have what I think might be the most terrifying prayer ever". I'm sure you



know the prayer, it begins "I am no longer my own". The covenant prayer is terrifying, but it is the way God calls us to follow. We give up ourselves and we give up our 'likes', because in doing that we find the truth of who we are, and inch our way towards realising the depth of life in all its fullness.

In the next few months and perhaps years, there will undoubtedly be things we don't like in the life of church, so let us hold on to the promise we make to God – and pray that we, and all God's people might have eyes to see, and ears to hear the message of God's grace.

After all this I fancy a bit of cheese, and I'll make my peace with those who don't!

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!**

If you're able to get to one of our 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!!!

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## Children & Families

For those missing Sunday School, or if you know other children who may be interested, this week's focus is **Peace of mind, Paul's letters: Philippians 4: 1-9**

As Paul signs off his letter, he urges the community to support two women named co-workers, and to be always rejoicing, praying, pursuing whatever is honourable, pure and praiseworthy, and – he says – the peace of God will be with them. This week we are going to explore how the Philippians were prepared for life without Paul.

Full details attached.

Don't forget....**24<sup>th</sup> October - Light Party**



The poster is for a 'Light Party' on Saturday 24th October from 3-4pm via Zoom. It features a yellow background with a candle icon for the letter 'L' in 'Light Party'. Text includes 'You are invited to a Light Party', 'A Light, bright and fun alternative to Halloween', 'Suitable for 4+ yrs-parents/carers to stay with children', and 'Saturday 24th October 3 - 4pm via Zoom'. Activities listed are Music, Games, Craft, Magic, and Story. A 'LIVE' badge is prominent. Contact information includes 'Book a place by emailing methodistfamilies@gmail.com' and 'To find out more visit: @MacclesfieldCircuit'. A suggested donation of £1 per child is noted in the bottom right corner. Icons include a red cross, a pumpkin, and a jar.

You are invited to a  
**Light Party**  
A Light, bright and fun alternative to Halloween  
Suitable for 4+ yrs-parents/carers to stay with children  
**Saturday 24th October 3 - 4pm via Zoom**  
Music **LIVE** Games  
Craft Magic Story  
Book a place by emailing  
[methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com)  
To find out more visit:  
**@MacclesfieldCircuit**  
suggested donation  
**£1**  
per child

Angela

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**Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Prestbury this week. This prayer has been provided by Roger Bolton.**

Let's pray

Dear God, in these difficult times we remember how you have led us and our forebears through all manner of trials and sufferings over hundreds of years. We thank you for your faithfulness to your Church and for the way in which you bless us

every day. Help and guide us we pray, so that we do not lose sight of your true purpose for us and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank you for the leadership we receive at this time from our Stewards and Ministers, for all their dedicated service to your church. Bless and keep every one of them as they lead us forward.

We thank you for our health and all the blessings of this life, that so often are taken for granted until we have a problem. Thank you for the love of our families and church family which sustains us, and for all the front-line workers who are keeping us supported tirelessly.

At Prestbury we are praying for all the efforts of those working towards re-commencing services and for the work of the Pastoral Visitors in sustaining the fellowship. Also we pray for those who are ill or anxious at this present time; for those recuperating and for those who are sad or bereaved. At this time of Harvest, we also remember our farming families, who have had some tough times personally, but work to provide the nation's food.

*“Almighty and everlasting God, who formed your Church to be of one heart and soul in the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit: renew her evermore in her first love; and grant to your people such a measure of your grace that their life may be hallowed, their way directed, and their work made fruitful to the good of the Church and the Glory of your holy name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord AMEN”*

*(Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield)*

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**Members' voice** - by Stephan & Christine Rudolfer, Green Close

“In their distress they cried out the Lord...”

4 times in Psalm 107

When we look at our country and the world, what do we see? Is it time for us to come to our senses, to repent and ask forgiveness?

We learn from the early pages of the Bible that God was **GRIEVED** about the ways of men. *“The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil all the time** and HIS **HEART** was filled with **PAIN**.”* (Genesis 6:5-6) That is quite a shock for us: God, the righteous judge, is no unfeeling, account-keeping, faceless person, but someone who **is hurt** because He wants to be close to us and desires nothing more than our full commitment in accepting His love and obeying his commands.

The Lord is merciful. He delights in a grateful heart – in Noah's case, a thank-you offering caused the Lord to swear: *“Never again will I curse*

*the ground because of man, **even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood.*** (Gen.8:5)

What does this mean for us? David's confession of, and repentance for, his grievous sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband expresses "**a broken and contrite heart.**" (Ps. 51:17)

So, we do not need to be afraid to admit our guilt, knowing that the Lord is always ready to enfold us afresh in His loving arms. Then why are we so tardy in admitting to Him all our shortcomings, and interceding for forgiveness of all the sins our forefathers, our leaders and we have committed? Very rarely have we heard confessions of what we did to the Africans in transporting them as slaves to our country, the grabbing of whole continents to build our empire and the continuing lack of unity between Christian denominations.

We can hear you say, "You are too obsessed".

We find the Old Testament, harder to understand than the New Testament. The Lord had to teach a lot of laws to mould the Israelites into His people. Many prophets were sent by God to **WARN** His stiff-necked people about His promise, which to be their God and they to be His people who would dwell safely in their land. Jeremiah echoes God's pain by saying "The **heart** is deceitful in all things and beyond cure." (17:9)

"You are a right Jeremiah - always preaching doom and gloom!" we hear.

Prophets **are** uncomfortable people.

The very fact that God is so eager for us *to have a RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM* shows us how compassionate and incredibly patient He is. HE LOVES US in spite of our shortcomings! Through Jesus we are no longer 'just' God's people, but his **CHILDREN**, so we can call Him *Abba – the loving, doting Father!*

The New Testament, which is full of joy that THE PROMISED SAVIOUR would come and has come, **still** urges us to **REPENT**.

What were Jesus' FIRST WORDS at the start of His ministry?

Well, surprise, surprise: He repeated the very words His forerunner John the Baptist had said: "REPENT for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2 and 4:17).

All through His ministry Jesus taught the people plainly, and in parables, that there would be great joy in heaven over one repentant sinner. (Luke 15:7)

Coming back to the title of this article, we find ourselves in exactly the same situation that the people in Psalm 107 were: **we are in DISTRESS!** The world seems to be falling around our ears, and we are totally helpless. So let us come to our senses, and remember that God is *our Emmanuel*- who promised never to leave us or abandon us.

The other half of the quote "and in their distress they cried out to the Lord" is "**and He delivered them.**"

### **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=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.

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### **Helen's Blog**

Please see [www.questforspirituality.com](http://www.questforspirituality.com)

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## Community....

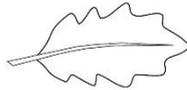


### **Vacancy – Circuit Treasurer**

We are looking to appoint a new Circuit Treasurer following Don's decision to step down due to ill health and family commitments. We are extremely grateful to Don for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

The circuit cannot function without a Treasurer.

Could this be you? Do you have an interest in financial matters? You will need to attend Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meetings and advise on financial matters including budgeting and strategy to ensure the Circuit remains financially viable but the foundation for all circuit work is a love for, and relationship with, God, the Church and the world. For more information please talk to Graham.



### **Harvest/Silklife Foodbank**

Macclesfield & Poynton churches were able to celebrate with Harvest services on 11 October. Gawsorth is this Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>. If you've not been able to make a contribution to harvest and fancy doing so, please remember the Silklife Foodbank.

*Silklife Foodbank remembers farmers, planters and growers this Harvest. We remain extremely grateful for the food and financial donations you all make and as a Christian rooted service we remember to Thank God and pray for His continual provision and blessing upon the giver and the receiver. May you all experience a fruitful harvest.*

Here are some of their recent facebook asks.....

*3 October*

*PLEASE HELP US! - We really need PASTA SAUCE!*

*Did you know that based on current Pandemic Referral figures, Silklife Foodbank is on track to distribute 1872 jars of pasta sauce in the 2020/21 financial year? We currently have less than 100 jars in stock! It would be much appreciated if everyone can purchase an extra jar this week and place it in the donation box at Sainsbury, Macclesfield. Thanks!*

*All sauces with at least 6 weeks best before are welcome to be donated. We often pack a curry sauce into our 'single referral' bags. The only reason I say pasta is that we give out pasta too.*

*You are more than welcome to drop off on Tuesday at the foodbank on George Street between 9:30am and 11:30am.*

*9 October*

*Well done everybody, 4 days in since our public drive for Pasta sauce went live and you have already begun, thank you. We collect from our drop box in Sainsbury on Monday and Friday's. Today it was full - Amazing work everyone!*

10 October

**THIS WEEKS BIG ASK!**

There are 51000 residents in Macclesfield and our facebook page currently has 1200 followers. Please raise awareness of our project this week by personally inviting your Macclesfield friends to like our page. Tell them what we do and how they can help! A **BIG THANKS IN ADVANCE!**

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SilklifeFoodbank>

“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.

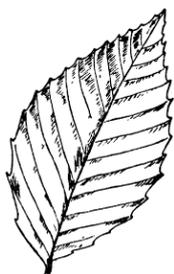


**‘A toy from a child to a child’**

The Charity Christmas Fair at St Michael's organised by the Rotary Club of Macclesfield Castle has been cancelled. The Club is considering the distribution of nearly-new toys for Christmas to help families in need. They would like to find one of more organisations willing to work with them. If your Church would be interested in learning more, do contact Jim Richardson at [jim.richardson2@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.richardson2@btinternet.com).

**HOPE Together (The national Hope organisation) - The Wellbeing Journey**

HOPE Together and Kingsgate Church are working to develop a video journey drawing on [Kingsgate's Wellbeing sermon series](#) and a new book by their lead pastor, Dave Smith. The videos will be presented by Simon Thomas (ex Sky Sports/ Blue Peter) and Joanna Abeyinka, with contributions from leading experts in different fields. The Wellbeing Journey has a prophetic edge in this season. Following the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, local churches are in a unique place to lead communities on this journey to physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing as they offer this practical guide. You might like to consider this for a teaching or study series in 2021. An introduction can be viewed on the HopeTogetherUK Facebook or the YouTube Channel [@HopeTogetherUK](#).



**WHAM (Winter Homeless Accommodation in Macclesfield)**

Rachel Mayers, who runs the WHAM (Winter Homeless Accommodation in Macclesfield) Winter Weekend Nightshelter, has met Cheshire East Council to discuss the provision this winter. The Council is very keen to have the help of the Churches but this demands **finding a single venue** and having **volunteers willing to do night shifts**. Her full briefing on the situation and the action required is attached.

In summary:

All the Council's hostel beds are full. During the lockdown the Council was unable to move people on to rental accommodation. It is now concerned that it will be unable to accommodate all the rough sleepers during the cold weather;



The WHAM team would like to be able to continue to share Christ's love in this very practical way, but have to consider the safety of the guests and the volunteers alike. The Team is considering options in liaison with the Council in the light of government guidance. **The proposal is to offer just "sit-up" (chair) spaces in a large enough venue in the town centre manned by sufficient volunteers to cover the overnight shifts;**

The Team is contacting directly all the volunteers on the WHAM database but expects that many may well be unwilling to volunteer this year;

The shifts can be full overnight (10pm to 7am), a part of an overnight (say 10pm-2am or 2am-7am) on Friday, Saturday **and/or** Sunday or an emergency overnight on any night very cold weather is predicted. There will be other opportunities to volunteer if the Nightshelter goes ahead but **without a venue and cover for the night shifts it will not go ahead this winter;**

Anyone wishing to know more should contact **Richard Ainley, the WHAM Volunteer Co-ordinator, on [maccnightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:maccnightshelter@gmail.com) or 07874 852762.** Training and briefing will, of course, be provided.

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## Harvest at Home!

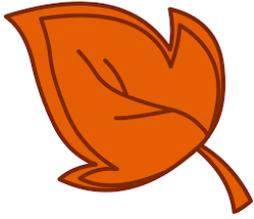
Many thanks to everyone who sent in pictures of Harvest displays and to Gill Oldham for the idea and Graham who put it all together, hope you've been able to see the video of pictures received. Here are just a few!



If you haven't seen it yet, here's the link.....

<http://tiny.cc/harvestathome>





Just for fun!

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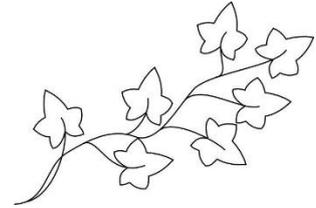
© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Parish Pump

## Fancy baking?



### October....



This month we've seen a celebration of Harvest Festivals, albeit different to our usual ones what better way to continue this theme than with a recipe which uses traditional harvest ingredient – the apple!

This recipe has kindly been provided to us by Jean Drinkwater, Poynton.

### Apple Amber

1lb. Apples  
6 oz. Sugar  
2 Eggs  
4 oz. Granulated Sugar

Peel, core and slice apples and cook in as little water as possible until tender, sweeten to taste.

Separate the yolks from the whites of eggs, pour the hot apples onto the yolks, stirring well. Turn into a dish.

Make meringue by whisking egg whites until they stand in peaks, whisk in 4 oz. granulated sugar whisking all the time. Continue whisking until the mixture holds its shape.

Pile the meringue on top of the apples, put in oven on low temperature for 30 - 40 minutes until the meringue is crisp and lightly coloured. Serve hot or cold.

Taken from a very old cook book called The Book of Sweets and Puddings by Myrtle Lindlaw.



Here is Jean's finished dish – looks delicious!

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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 18 October

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... : <http://tiny.cc/trinity19>

The Reading is Matthew 22 v.15-22

**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.....**

25 October AM – led by Ros

1 November AM – led by Graham

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

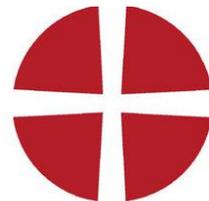


**FREE** phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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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