



MINI MACCLESFIELD **MESSENGER**

29th Issue: 15th November 2020

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

I do not like mornings and I never have. Now don't misunderstand me, I can get up in the morning, I can do work, and attend meetings, but its only because I have a system.

My system is all based around the snooze button! Whoever invented this wonderful thing is my hero! You see, I work out what time I need to be up in the morning and then I set an alarm (or several alarms) for five or ten minutes before then. This means that I can be woken up in a dignified, gentle, gradual way and have the unspeakable delight of hitting the snooze button. My



day, thusly, begins in a pleasant way. My system works ... normally. There have been occasions when the lure of the bed has been too great, or my aim has been lacking and I hit the "off" button instead of the snooze button! These events usually end in my suddenly seeing the time, panicking and dashing about the house getting ready so I'm not late!

It seems to me that there are some people like me, who need a bit of help to embrace the morning and others who leap out of bed and get to work! In a similar way there are some people who hear God speak and immediately leap into action, and there are some of us who need a little help.

In the early days of the Christian church there was an expectation that Jesus would return soon and would bring an end to time and history. That sense of expectancy brought a sense of urgency to the work of the church. The whole world needed to be told about the saving death of Jesus – and there isn't long to do it. So, they thought let's get up and get on with it. We see that urgency as we read the New Testament stories.

But with the passing of time, the Church began to think a little differently. It is as if we think we have all the time in the world to do the work of God. That sense of expectancy



slipped away, and we lost the sense of urgency. There is a danger that we are as slow to respond to the voice of God, as I am to respond to the voice of my alarm clock. We hit the snooze button and say, oh Lord, just a few more minutes – then I'll go!"

We are in a strange time in the life of the church, as in the life of the world, and we need to be a people who are listening for the voice of God. We need to listen for the words of comfort, words of challenge, words of rebuke, words of encouragement, words of commission and then in faith respond to them. What God asks of us in these days may seem strange, but we are

called to trust in God as we seek to be true disciples who proclaim the goodness of God in the world.

In his message to the Romans, St Paul wrote: 'The hour has come for you to wake from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed' [Romans 13.11]. Perhaps this is more important than ever for us today. So, let's ignore the snooze button and follow the gracious summons of God as we are led into a new day!

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!

Our doors are closed again but don't forget other ways of giving! Church finances continue to be stretched, 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 Matthew 25: 14-30, exploring together, Jesus' parable of the Talents. Resources sheet attached.

I hope you are well and not too stressed during this second lockdown.

As you all know all our children's and families work has been online since March 2020, which seems like a lifetime ago. We can't wait until we can hold events in person, but until then online it is.

We are trying several different ways to connect with the children and their families, posting on our Facebook pages, holding live zoom events and handing out craft bags.

We are trying to find ways in how to connect with our toddlers, but this is showing to be exceedingly difficult. We were due to start trialling 'Puppet Tree in a Box' at Broken Cross on the 6th November but with the current restrictions we felt it was not right to ask families to come out each week and collect a box for the week. Basically, this is a box with all you need to run a toddler session at home, all the families need to supply is milk and water for the parent's cuppa. So, this is on the back burner until the current restrictions are over. If it is successful, we will look at starting this off at other churches.

I just want to personally thank everyone who answered my call for making drawstring bags, they are fabulous, and we can't wait for the children to be able to use them.



We did manage to hold a Light Party via zoom on the 24th October. This was well attended for a zoom meeting. We delivered 22 bags and pumpkins to 16 different families and we had 20 children on the zoom call from 14 different families from across the circuit and far beyond. Well far beyond as Manchester and West Yorkshire, the power of social media.



I just want to thank the team of cutter outers and the people who helped deliver the bags, without your help it would be impossible. You don't realise how long it takes to cut items out!!!!

The craft and activities bags go down very well with both the children and parents/carers, there is something in it for everyone. During the zoom session we had a story from Annie, magic from Graham, a pumpkin prayer from Ros and a craft from me, which was a lantern to 'Let Your Light Shine'.

At the end of the session we challenged the children to carve their pumpkins during the coming week, to show them letting their 'Light Shine from the Inside Out'. We asked them to make happy pumpkins to put in their windows for all the children taking part in the national pumpkin trail on 31st October. As with many things COVID-19 has changed how children spent their Halloween.



We decided to join in the national pumpkin trail at Broken Cross, Macclesfield, and Prestbury Methodist Churches. At each church, a box was placed outside the church with a pumpkin and bags of 'Hope' inside for the children to take away. We had another



11 bags taken, so 11 more children have been told about Jesus the Light of the World.

We have just celebrated Remembrance Sunday and yet again another first for me, not parading and being at the cenotaph for a service. We have created a short video about how remembrance is all about love. The link was sent out with last week's worship details. We have forwarded the link to 9 schools for them to share with their school community on Remembrance Day. So please pray for your local schools as these are challenging times for both the staff and the children.

We are now making plans for Christmas; we know what we want to do but we need to work out the how and where!!!!

I know a lot of you will be missing the children's work as each church has their own volunteers at these events when done face to face. But if you want to be involved, just drop me a line and we can make this happen. You may want to join us on one of our zoom meetings, just so you see what we are up to. You may want to provide crafts, puzzles, or activities for one of the extra activities booklets we produce alongside our events. You may want to tell a story or share an idea or just help prepare the craft and activities bags. Just get in touch with either me or your church children's work contact.

We are now heading into a busy period and it's not 100% clear on how we can do things, as they can change day by day. But one thing we do know is that if we put our trust in the Lord, he will guide us and will make things happen. I have been brought up on the saying 'Where there is a will, there is a way!'.

So, let's keep thinking out of the box and being there for the children in our communities.

God bless Angela and the Children's team
Email: methodistfamilies@gmail.com
Mobile: 07901777506

Prayer– in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Langley this week. This prayer has been provided by Mary McQuinn.

Let's pray

Dear Lord, as we go into lockdown once more, we ask that you put your loving arms around us through the weeks to come. We thank Ros, Helen and Graham and all the people involved for providing us with Sunday Services each week, Lord bless them and we pray that they may continue whilst we are still unable to attend Chapel. We remember all churches in our circuit and there are people thinking about you all, you are not alone.

At Langley we pray for everyone who is not feeling well at this time, in particular Peter Simons who has spent a long time in hospital but is home again, Glyn Howell who now has an electric wheelchair which means he can now go out with his parents again. We also pray for the following who have been or who are ill at the moment, Brenda Berry, Margie Lomax, Tony Lewis, Derek Hopper, Hedley Holmes and Graham Bancroft and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

We pray for all people round the world affected by the Covid19 Pandemic and trust that we can support one another in these trying times.

Finally, we remember all who have fought and died in various conflicts as unfortunately we will be unable to celebrate and give thanks at the Cenotaph this year. God Bless them all.

***Ask the Saviour to help us
Comfort, Strengthen and keep us
He is willing to aid us
He will carry us through***

Amen.

Members' voice - by Anne Towers, Macclesfield.

I am one of the Trustees of Refugees Welcome. As you may know we have 5 refugee families in this area supported by Refugees Welcome, an organisation originally set up under the banner of Churches Together in Macclesfield, but now a Charity in its own right.

During the period since 'lockdown' in March our volunteers carried on supporting the families with their English remotely, mostly using phones. This was not very easy and was especially difficult for those volunteers trying to help children with home schooling.

We decided that the families needed to have access to computers as they had at College and at school. So, we applied for funding to another Charity called 'Cheshire Community Foundation' and were fortunate enough to receive a grant from them.

This grant together with a wonderful donation from the Poynton Church Christmas appeal covered the cost of supplying each family with a computer for their home. The challenge then was to get them set up so that the lessons for adults and children could go online, and again our wonderful volunteers stepped up to the mark and helped the families to get going. There were challenges, with lost password and inadvertent downloads, but all in all it has been a success.

The families took to 'Zooming' in a big way, not just for their lessons but for keeping in touch with family and friends everywhere. For the volunteers it was also honing a new skill, learning how to share sessions with other volunteers, share screens and teach on 'Whiteboards' on Zoom.

For the adults it means that they can carry on learning English despite the disruption to their English lessons at Macclesfield College, being able to have more frequent and sometimes shorter sessions which fit in better with their other commitments. From September they have been able to enrol on a 'Digital Skills for Life & Essential Digital Skills' course at the college, to learn more about using the computers. This will be especially useful for when they have to apply to stay in this country at the end of the project via a Home Office online process which is not really user friendly at the best of times.

For the children it meant they could keep up with their peers and access the extra resources from school that were 'online' and they carried on working through the summer to catch up. This has proved especially useful as already one of the children has been sent home to isolate due to a suspected case of 'Covid 19' in their class. The teacher assumed that everyone had access to a computer at home and moved lessons online as set out in the latest government guidelines to minimize disruption to learning.

As one of the volunteers said, 'where would we have been without the computer?' Hopefully now the work can carry on no matter what happens in the way of restrictions over the next few months and the families will not be further disadvantaged, thanks to the great work of our volunteers and the generosity of Poynton Church and 'Cheshire Community Foundation'.

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



Quest for Spirituality

I thought I'd share with you some of my journey through sabbatical this summer through a few weeks here in Mini Messenger. Most of you will know ministers are asked to take three months break from circuit ministry every seven years and we are encouraged to use this time to rest and reflect/study/explore some area of ministry that interests us. I have an interest in understanding spirituality since I saw the census figures from 2001 telling us less than 10% of our country went to church but 90% said they were spiritual. Ten years later and the stats for church attendance had dropped significantly below 10% but the number who said they saw themselves as 'spiritual' remained high. It made me think but surely Christianity is spirituality at its best, yet attendance at Christian worship is in decline in an age of spirituality on the rise. Something didn't stack up.

I remember a minister of a Fresh Expression nearby telling me that the road to faith was like peeling back the layers on an onion. You began with the outermost layer, what we might call 'outreach' and things like coffee mornings, toddler groups, lunch clubs all fit into that category of being welcoming and hospitable to all from 'outside' the church. From then on, most church communities tended to offer forms of Christian study or even worship, which can be quite a leap from enjoying a chat over a coffee to being invited to sing unfamiliar hymns and listen to (sometimes long....) sermons! This minister said to me that the layer of the onion we often miss between 'outreach' and 'christian nurture' is the 'spirituality' layer. Creating space for people to discover (or re-discover) their own personal spirituality, realising there is something more to life than what this world might project, something that comes from outside and wants to reside within. Once people connect with their own spirituality you can then introduce them to Christian discussion, exploration and study about a divine spirituality freely offered to all who choose to acknowledge and receive it. That, in turn, might lead them to want to know more of this amazing God and even come to worship. There are lots of ifs and buts along that pathway but, in essence, that was the pathway. So, it has long been a desire of mine to keep spirituality on the agenda in all church related work, enabling openings for people to find connections, meaning and purpose that they can access and discover how it might change their lives. Spirituality has many definitions around it but the words I have found most helpful are MEANING, PURPOSE, FEELING CONNECTED and RELATING to the DIVINE. With these words and a few others spinning around my head, I set off in search of deeper meaning about spirituality.

Over the last few months my bookshelves and study have been revamped and I now have a special 'spirituality corner' for me to 'dwell' in to read, pray, ponder and just sit with God and myself. There are two comfy chairs there, one for me and one for whoever chooses to come and sit with me for a while.

So, I invite you now to come, sit and journey with me through these pages over the coming weeks as I unpack some of what I have discovered/learned/realised during my quest. It has been a wonder-filled journey and one I hope will continue on through my ministry for many years to come.



We begin in my heartland – Scotland – at the start of St Cuthbert's Way in Melrose. Joined on my journey are my wonderful husband David, (chief chauffer and soulmate throughout!) two mad dogs and – for this part – my delightful teenage twins Hannah and Rebekah. We didn't do the whole of the 60Km Walk as that would have been too much in the time we had, plus I couldn't bear the whining as it was when we faced 'another hill' or hearing 'how much further is it?' so we settled with doing a few miles each day over four days: the walkers being me, the girls and our three month old puppy, Koda.

DAY ONE was mainly on the flat, walking along a Roman road which was quite lovely and we found ourselves chatting quite happily along the route. It was a shame Melrose Abbey was closed as that would have been great to go around, though we enjoyed the rest of the day and I made a mental note to go back to the abbey when lockdown ended. Whilst we were walking along a mainly straight and well signposted path we still managed to get lost at the end! Thankfully a 8 metre long white motorhome is quite easy to spot, even in the distance! Sore feet and tired legs but we had enjoyed our first day.

DAY TWO began with us climbing up a rather steep hill FULL of sheep and lambs (much to Koda's amusement as he sat comfortably in my sling), then we ventured through a beautiful and yet barren valley, in which we got a bit lost and relied on Hannah's navigation skills to get us back to the road.

This photo is one of my favourites, with Rebekah lying on the road, so grateful to find it again and Hannah confidently holding the map whilst standing on her, like she knew all the time where we had been heading. (I don't think she did!).....



DAY THREE was when our dear friends Lisa and David joined us (with Lola their dog) and we found St Cuthbert's Cave together (after taking the wrong path through a cornfield – oops!).

The cave was such a moving place to find, hidden in the woods. We didn't get to rest too

long but I manage to sneak a few moments (and tons of photos) so I could revisit it in my mind frequently.

Our final day's walking took us across the sands to Lindesfarne and this was the highlight of the week for us all. What had begun as quite a fractuous journey with us all a bit tired, legs aching, getting lost and frustrated (not to mention the odd whinge from a teenager or two who had preferred a lie in!!), but once we got onto the sands (and stopped slipping on the seaweed!) we had a great time walking the 3 miles across to Holy Island. Both the girls, myself and Lisa all seemed to turn into toddlers as we giggled whilst squelching our way in bare feet across the muddy sands, searching for shells, listen for the seals and loving the sense of 'walking through the ocean bed'.



As we stepped off the sands, onto Holy Island, one of my daughters chuckled as she put her arm through mine and said "well mother, do you feel any more spiritual than when you started?". Standing on this Holy Ground where St Cuthbert had come to all those years ago, where people had found healing and wholeness and who still come today for peace and restoration; add to this a sense of joy of achievement, a love of being with my daughters and best friend in this special 'thin peaceful place' There was meaning, purpose, connectedness and a deep sense of the divine around and within – so I looked at Rebekah and said 'it doesn't get any more spiritual than this!', then smiled as we made our own footprints onto this holy land and my heart was strangely warmed.....

You can read more and see tons of photos on my blog: Visit www.questforspirituality.com

Join me next week for my adventures on the Isle of Mull.
God's blessings to you all,
Helen

Community....

Martyn Donaldson Music Trust



A new Martyn Donaldson Music Trust Christmas card

MDMT has a new Christmas card on sale this year. Entitled 'THE NATIVITY,' it features an original painting of the Holy family by Margaret Fish. They are on sale now at £5 for 10 cards and £2.50 for 5. Please contact Linda Donaldson on 01625433187 or email lindadonaldson42@hotmail.co.uk to place an order.

All musical activities having ceased in recent months, I've had time to play the piano regularly and seriously! The result is **two new CDs recorded in Macclesfield Methodist Church.**

1. 20 of SCOTT JOPLIN's celebrated hits including the well known Entertainer and Maple Leaf Rags and lesser known waltzes, two steps, marches and extended concert pieces.
2. PIANO MUSIC THAT BRIGHTENS EVERY DAY! This collection of 12 pieces by Bach, Schubert, Eric Coates, Elgar, Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Rubinstein and Gershwin I hope will lift the spirits of the listeners at this challenging time for everyone.

Each CD is a minimum of £5 with all proceeds going to the new Christie Cancer Hospital Centre in Macclesfield that is due to open next year. Any more info please phone 01625 433187 or email andy.donaldson@mdmt.org.uk

Thanks, Andy Donaldson.

Macclesfield & District Lions Christmas Appeal

During the last thirty years Macclesfield and District Lions Club has collected food items donated by shoppers in the main supermarkets in the town. Each year, we distribute 150+ Christmas food parcels. Due to the pandemic it is not possible to undertake our normal method of food collection.

As you will appreciate, we have grave concerns that we will not be able to offer support to the lonely, new widows and widowers who have lost lifelong partners or those in financial distress.

We have tried to think outside the box. As you will see from the attached poster many local Coop stores are committed to support us with dump-bins near the checkout. In addition, we have created a QR code and JustGiving page to take cash donations. It will be wonderful if we can promote the appeal through the various churches in our district. Social media is a great means to optimise donations and it will be great if we can encourage those who receive the information to forward it via means of their FaceBook pages, etc.

Local schools are supporting our initiative by getting the children to make Christmas cards that will accompany the food parcels. We believe the emotional connection is as important if not more important than the physical need.

For information, the Club is working with church groups and ROAR to run a barbecue on Christmas Day for circa 150 people in the centre of Macclesfield. We also plan to donate 10 sleep pods that rough sleepers can use to stay warm and dry even on the coldest and stormiest nights.

Alex Price, Gawsworth

Christmas Food Parcel Appeal

Food parcels
given to local
people (Lonely,
bereaved or in
financial need)

The Co-op shops in the Macclesfield area, have very kindly allowed us to set-up our annual food collection points within their stores. We have a food collection point in many of their local shops.

This year more than ever, your local community needs your help, to feed those most in need. We will pack and deliver food parcels to local people, to those who are lonely, bereaved or in financial need.

Please consider picking up an extra item to donate when you shop or making a cash donation below so we can buy more food.

If you are reading this and cannot donate an item of food today, please consider making a cash donation instead, scan the QR code or visit: www.justgiving.com/campaign/christmas-food-parcel-appeal

Thank you for you support



**Macclesfield &
District Lions Club**





We know how important it is to support the most vulnerable in our society so once again our 12 days of giving will provide vital support to remarkable organisations right across the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. We know from previous winners what a huge difference £1,000 can make.

Anyone can nominate a charity to win one of the £1,000 awards. And it's quick and easy to do. The more nominations a charity receives the greater their chance of winning, so spread the word.

Today (9 November) we're launching this year's 12 days of giving. We're proud to be giving back to the communities we serve and championing the issues that really matter to them, especially this year with so many in need – working together to build a movement for good.

Just imagine what you could do with a £1,000 donation.

Designed to give eligible charities* in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man the financial assistance they need to help them make a real difference, we're donating £1,000 to 10 charities each weekday from 7 – 22 December. **That's £120,000 to 120 charities over 12 days.**

All you need to do is visit <https://www.movementforgood.com/12days/> and click 'nominate a charity now'.

Each draw will close at midnight the day before, with all nominations rolled over to the next available draw unless the charity is drawn.

The more nominations a charity gets, the greater its chance of receiving a £1,000 donation, so start spreading the word to your friends and family.

*Please note, anyone can nominate but only eligible charities can win an award. See website for full Terms & Conditions.

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This Christmas, vulnerable children in the UK need a Secret Santa more than ever.

Every child's Christmas should be full of excitement, warmth and laughter. But for many children, this year will be very different. Before coronavirus hit, more than 4 million children in the UK were locked in poverty. That's the equivalent of nine children in every school class of 30.

Be a Secret Santa and you could make sure more children and young people have a hot meal, a present or a safe place to sleep.

[Find out more about the campaign - https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/](https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/)

A promotional poster for 'Action for Children's Starry Night' virtual concert. The background is a dark blue night sky with twinkling stars and a cityscape at the bottom with snow-covered roofs and festive lights. The text is centered and reads: 'We're delighted to invite you to Action for Children's Starry Night Tuesday 8 December 2020 6.30pm - 7.30pm'. Below this, it says 'Hosted by Channel 4 News' Jon Snow, our virtual concert brings the magic of Christmas into your home. Featuring live musical performances, classic carols and appearances from some very special guests including Angellica Bell and Call the Midwife's Jenny Agutter.' A red star logo with 'Action for Children' is in the top right. At the bottom, it says 'Vulnerable children all over the UK face a Christmas without food, warmth or love. They need your help.' and 'Tickets: £10 per household starry-night.co.uk'.

A Reflection.....

'Poems were made by fools like me-- But only God can make a tree' quotation for a song my mother used to sing which set me on this reflection - Rev Sheila

I Looked at the trees as they welcome winter's cold, ablaze with colours brown, red, gold!

Then I got to asking, and took a look, to see if trees are mentioned in God's holy book.

So many references, I cannot mention all, but here are some I'm sure, you will recall.

In the first book Genesis, there, for all to see God had planted a garden full of various trees.

Just one forbidden to Adam we read, but sadly, God's instruction they did not heed, Eve took the fruit, and both did eat, so out of the garden they had to retreat!

Then Jonah, slung overboard, met with a whale, you remember this funny, fishy tale.

How under a tree some shade he found, but then a worm, felled it to the ground.

Later the prophet Elijah from Jezebel had fled, to the wilderness of Judea he was led

under a tree God made him lie, and after food he no longer wanted to die

Then, the prophet Elijah, no longer blue, rose up and again the Lord's work did pursue.

Then Zacchaeus climbed the leafy green, thought he'd see Jesus without being seen,

Jesus saw him hiding, shouted out "Come down, I'll stay at your house while I'm in town."

Old Zacc told Jesus that he'd hurt many others, then promised to now help his brothers.

Joseph, from Nazareth, worked with wood, teaching Jesus the things he should.

A story Christ tells of a seed that grew tall, truly a miracle out of something so small,

He likened it to His kingdom that secretly grows, seen by all who have faith and know!

The vine and its branches was also a tree, that Jesus used to help people see

That to bear fruit, we must abide, stay close to Him, our Teacher and Guide.

The very last book, Revelation its name, tells of a garden in a vision or dream

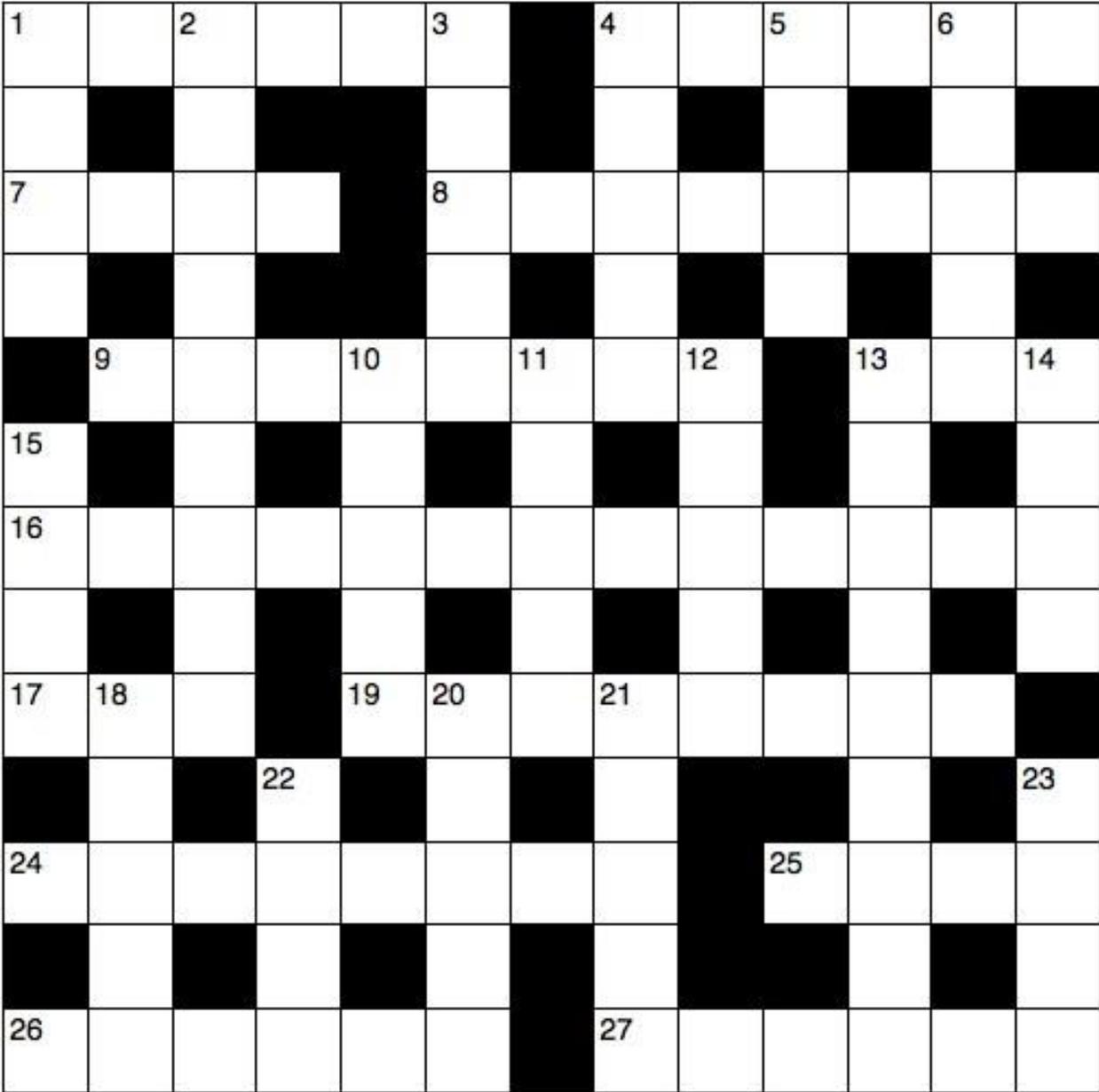
A tree of life grows and flourishes there, producing fruit for us all to share.

It's leaves are given for the nations, health, peace love and joy are its wealth.

There's no need of any light, for the Lord God will reign there shining bright,

**And all this is ours because Jesus came, willing to die on the tree of shame
and give his life for you and for me, in total surrender on Calvary's tree**

Just for fun!



Parish Pump

Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38)(9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Fancy baking?

5 November 2020 marked the start of our second lockdown and with darker nights, colder, wet weather... time to bring out our baking equipment once more, or perhaps you never put it away?!!

Where better to start than Bonfire Night. With us all confined to our houses, bonfires and firework displays naturally moved online. Plymouth, Northampton, Alexandra Palace, Lancashire Fire and Rescue to name a few all posted virtual firework displays and bonfires and we were encouraged to make homemade fireworks such as breadsticks part covered with icing and dipped in sprinkles to resemble sparklers.

This recipe though is traditional Yorkshire – a thick slab of parkin to nibble on and we can imagine warming ourselves by the bonfire! It uses oatmeal, making it quite different from other regional versions and it gets stickier and richer as it matures so you don't have to eat it all at once – unless of course, you want to!!

Yorkshire Parkin

225g unsalted butter
110g golden syrup
110g black treacle
2 large eggs
125ml milk
225g plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tbsp ground ginger
225g dark muscovado sugar
225g medium oatmeal



Preheat the oven to 170c/Gas 3, grease and line a 30x21cm baking tin.
Put the butter, golden syrup and treacle in a pan and heat gently until melted. Beat the eggs with the milk in a jug.
Put the flour, bicarb and ginger into a large bowl. Add the sugar and oatmeal and mix well. Stir in the melted butter and syrup mixture, followed by the eggs and milk.
Put the mixture into the tin and bake for 45-55 minutes until risen and springs back when lightly pressed. It may sink a little in the middle – adds to the charm!
Leave to cool, then cut into squares and store wrapped in baking parchment in an airtight tin.

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 15 November

AM – Morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/ordinary33>

The Reading is Matthew 25: 4 – 30

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.....

22 November AM – led by Graham

29 November AM – led by Helen

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

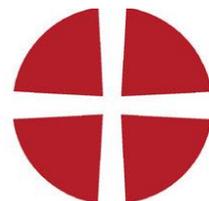


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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

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Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thieve.

DOWN:

1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.