



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

33rd Issue: CHRISTMAS EDITION
13th December 2020



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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

In the summer I got a new car! My old one was six years old, out of warranty and it was time for a change to something newer with a few more 'toys' for me to enjoy.



Now, there isn't anything too unusual about changing a car, so you might wonder why I'm writing about it, given that (I suspect) a number of you aren't interested in my cars! Well, what amazed me was how many people knew I had a new car almost before I did! I was speaking on the phone to someone, who said "I hear you have a new car... yes, Doris told me she was

going past your house and thought to herself, 'ooo that's different, it must be a new car". I was talking to someone else who said, "so, you've got a new car...fancy!", and yet another "Jean tells me you have new car!" By the way I have changed the names of the real people! It always amazes me how fast news can travel round church communities, and even beyond through towns and villages! Rumours always travel fast, the challenge with them is to work out what's true and what's not. Many of us have, on occasion, spread rumours – but hopefully better rumours than "Graham has a new car", we are called to keep the rumour of God alive.

Throughout the Christmas story there are rumours of something wonderful happening. Mary and Joseph are met by Angels and told of Gods plan, they can see and feel this wonderful gift of God growing. But there are others, the Shepherds for instance who are visited by Angels who terrify them and say, "God is doing something down in Bethlehem, go and have a look". A rumour of something amazing – but they can't stay sat in the fields; they have to see it for themselves. What about the Magi? They hear a rumour in their far-away home, and set out on a long journey to see the truth of it all for themselves. In fact, Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish theologian of the Nineteenth Century wrote:

The three kings had only a rumour to go by. But it moved them to make that long journey. The scribes were much better informed, much better

versed. They sat and studied the Scriptures like so many dons, but it did not make them move. Who had the more truth? The three kings who followed a rumour or the scribes who remained sitting with all their knowledge?

The rumour of God was so great, so world-changing, so remarkable that kings and shepherds – rich and poor were moved to go and see for themselves! Yet, there were some that missed it. As we move through Advent to the Christmas season and beyond listen for the rumours of God – don't miss them, and then go and see for yourself. See the truth of a God who loves you, who calls you by name, and delights in you.



But don't stop there! When you have seen this great truth of God, start spreading the rumour! Spread it far and wide, wherever you find yourself – keep the rumour of God alive! The God who created all things. The God who is revealed throughout history. The God who was born as baby. The God who welcomed rich and

poor to his cradle. The God who grew up to preach, and teach, and help, and heal. The God who still holds the world in his hands. The God who loves each person who has lived, lives now, or will ever live. The God who values every person as they are. The God who still offers life in all its fullness. The God whose light still shines in the darkness. Let us spread rumours of that God this Christmas and beyond, that we might be forced to remember the goodness of God and that all people may be moved to make that journey to see for themselves – Emmanuel, God with us!

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!

Please 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 **John 1.6-8,19-28 - Play and explore the idea of Jesus being with us**. Resources are attached for this week, next week and Christmas Day.

Angela

Prayer – We share together some Christmas prayers from Prestbury and Gawsorth churches.

From Roger Bolton, Prestbury....

Almighty God, Wonderful Counsellor, we praise you and worship you as we celebrate your coming. Your grace is undeserved and your love sustains us through the hard times. May your name be praised in all the earth, and may those praises rise to Heaven.

We are very aware Dear God, that we have often let you down through our own weakness, self-interest or blindness. We have fallen from the ideal you would want us to show before others, and we have on occasions failed those who need our help and support. In penitence we come to you for forgiveness, and we trust in your Grace. Jesus has taught us that when we confess our failings and commit ourselves to following closer in his footsteps, then you offer us forgiveness, and for this above all we love and adore you.

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*At this time many people write Christmas letters to their friends and relatives, reflecting on the year that is past and their hopes for the coming year:*

#### **A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO GOD FROM MACCLESFIELD CIRCUIT**

Prestbury Methodist Church,  
Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

Dear God,

It's been a strange year. We thank you for all the blessings and joys that you have brought to us even in these peculiar circumstances. Before and even amongst the difficulties some have had joyful, beautiful or relaxing experiences. Thank you for those opportunities, for the pastoral networks within our churches, and for the reflections and guidance of our ministers. We thank you for access to uncrowded places to spend our isolation, for the gifts of technology, and the freedom of gardens which have eased our lockdown. We thank you for the inspiration and beauty of the natural world which lift our spirits, and for your providence in all things. We thank

you for the skills and dedication of frontline medical staff and carers and for those who provide our daily necessities even when colleagues are taken ill. Finally, we thank you for the skill and knowledge of medical researchers who have offered us the prospect of a vaccine to help us out of these problematic times.

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but for some in particular daily living has been harder than for many of us. We remember particularly:

All who are bereaved, and especially those who during this time of isolation have been left alone through the loss of their partner. For those who had to experience the added pain of end-of-life without being able to hold their loved-one's hand, or receive the comfort of normal fellowship amongst their church family. May they know your love surrounding them even in all stages of lockdown.

We pray for the many who have spent time in hospital without being able to see their families even in their time of pain and greatest suffering. As they recover, may they feel you born again in them.

We pray for all who find restriction and isolation particularly hard to bear, especially those whose mental health was already a cause for their concern. For all who are lonely and fearful of that loneliness. May Christmas be a time when they feel comforted by your presence rather than more isolated.

We pray for those around the world facing this pandemic on top of war, injustice, violence, famine, drought, and multiple deprivation. Inspire us all to do what we can to support your healing love in action.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

Finally, Lord, as we prepare to celebrate your time of first coming into our world/ your world, we pray that others will see your glory revealed, and recognise the blessings of your grace revealed in Jesus. We pray for all your people in the coming year; that the fear and pain of this pandemic may become easier and that living and worshipping will return to the new "normal", whatever that might be. As we come to the end of this year's Christmas letter, we pray that you will help us to stay faithful to our calling in Jesus' name.

**AMEN**

*"God of love, open the hearts and minds of many this Christmas time to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ; that those whose lives are insecure, or empty, or aimless, may find in the one born at Bethlehem all that they need today, and much more besides. For his name's sake. **AMEN**"*

**From Muriel Egerton, Gawsworth....**

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you Lord for being our constant companion and source of strength, love and peace throughout these very troubled times.

The weekly services, via technology, have been such a comfort to us all and we thank you Lord that you have been with us always encouraging us to keep going and keep the faith.

This week we pray for the Church at Gawsorth and all the Church family. We ask you to bless them all especially the ones who are lonely, sick or recently bereaved. May they all know that God is with them.

Finally, in this wonderful season of Advent when we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ, we pray Lord that we can soon meet again in our places of worship, but in the meantime we ask you Lord to put your arms around everyone and they will know that your warmth and healing touch along with your precious love is always there for them. Amen.

Lo, he comes with clouds descending  
once for favoured sinners slain,  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train,  
Alleluia  
God appears on earth to reign.

Sing amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne,  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
come, Lord Jesus,  
Everlasting God, come down !



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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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### YouTube

**A massive 'Thank You' to everyone who has subscribed, we reached our target of 100 subscribers.** Our subscribers will now automatically get an alert when services have been put onto the YouTube channel.

If you haven't already subscribed, please do so at.....

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1PS5ox80YSZj71WMDHVmQ?fbclid=IwAR2kh47mOQ5ZdZHpVnLvSFqemJ3TwyalezVvSsywnvucNS569sb1tDhsnl> 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'.

***Subscribing doesn't cost anything as this is a free channel.***

***There's a Subscribe button under any YouTube video or on a channel's page.***

***Tell your relatives, friends, neighbours and ask them to subscribe too!!***

**There's lots of Christmas services coming up – subscribing will mean you don't miss any!!**

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**Members' voice** - by Fred, one of our cub leaders in 24th Macclesfield Scouts, Macclesfield

### **A Cubs Christmas Cracker**

It's been a funny old year really,  
To be a cub or a scout,  
Having to stay indoors most of the time,  
Because rotten old Covid's about.

With all these confusing new instructions,  
What with Lockdown this and restrictions that,  
With Boris' new rules – you can't go to schools,  
Come on everybody where are we at?

But at 24<sup>th</sup> Macc – we carried on,  
Zooming along all the way,  
With laughter, quizzes and all sorts of crafts,  
Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

With Christmas trees made from paper,  
A difficult task to master,  
To building an Inukshuk on the table,  
Mine was an absolute disaster!

October 31<sup>st</sup> was a riot,  
With ghouls and ghosts galore,  
Haithi you can take that mask off now,  
It's not Halloween anymore!

Camping indoors under tables,  
Making and baking a cake,  
Walking to the moon in one afternoon,  
Now that was a big step to take.

Whizz, Bang, Flash!  
Bonfire night came,  
As the fireworks lit up the sky,  
Rikki went out wearing his best suit,  
What do you mean? "A penny for the guy"!

With a cycle race down very steep steps,  
My what a scary affair!  
To a race round the world for everyone,  
Come on, hurry up, we'll see you all there.

Even though everything was rather peculiar,  
And we didn't get out and about as much,  
We all owe a great big thanks to Akela,  
For keeping us all in touch.

And now our poem is nearly ended,  
And we've delivered it all with great zest,  
There's only one thing left to say really,  
24<sup>th</sup> MACCLESFIELD – SIMPLY THE BEST!

### ***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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## Quest for Spirituality

### Updates from Helen's Sabbatical: A TOUCH OF HEAVEN ON EARTH (My visit to Coral Beach, Isle of Skye)



I have heard talk of 'thin spaces' on earth – places where people have felt closer to the Divine. Being by the seashore is one of my thin places, any seashore, but especially when it is really stormy or really calm waters. I find the sea and the shores around very spiritual places – places I find rest, peace, calm, strength, places I can indeed sense the Divine. As I look out to sea I am reminded of the vast history our waters have, so many millions of years before land beyond us and still here, so close as I walk along the beaches or cliffs and appreciate the oceans and the creativity within them. Nature is full of thin spaces – places one can find food for their soul....

The Celts were surrounded by nature and their entire existence dwelt within the natural thin places of planet earth. Nature shaped their days, nature informed their decision making, nature was powerful and to be respected, nature provided rest, refreshment and strength for one's soul. We, as humans, are a part of nature – a brilliant, beautiful, complex, gifted part of nature – here as God's stewards of this naturally beautiful and fragile world. Celtic spirituality illuminates this interconnectedness humanity has with nature and encourages us to re-discover how nature can feed our soul, strengthen our will and guide our way.

In search of some beautiful shoreline on Skye, I ventured out to find a beach created from coral, near Claignan. The coral is created from coralline algae which form large beds offshore and in life they are a dark pink colour.

The currents of the waters break up the skeletons of dead maerl which are washed ashore and bleached by the sun.

You can see the beach appear in the distance, from the path and it is so bright it is like a beacon, inviting you to come and encounter it's beauty. As I approached the beach I could feel myself getting excited and transfixed by the brightness of the



sands ahead. Once on the beach I realised that the 'sand' was actually made up of tiny bits of the coral itself, interspersed with masses of beautiful shells (and the odd colourful jelly-fish too!).

The waters were emerald green and so clear and calm. In between stopping Koda from eating everything he could see, I was able to capture on video the glistening calm waters before me. It really was the most beautiful beach and waters I have ever seen – a touch of heaven on earth. And to think this coral had once been alive in the sea and now, even in death, was a blessing and a beauty to behold. Life, death and life beyond death was all here – a motif Christianity promotes and encourages us to think of the beauty *beyond* us, that is past, present and future..... Well, I discovered it here.



This thin place was a much needed blessing for me, a space to be at one with such beauty, such creativity, such brightness and clear waters.

A space where one's soul could indeed be refreshed, restored and reassured of the Divine above, around and within us all, connecting us to the everlasting and reminding us we are part something beautiful and eternal. For me it was a touch of Heaven on earth.



Through Advent, as we journey closer to the stable door of Christmas morning, I pray we find ourselves thin places along the way to bring us closer to God, glimpses of Heaven on earth. Find a space and/or place where we can really sense His presence, His love, His peace, and visit there as often as we can in these busy days ahead. Savour the 'thin-ness' of that place and invite God to reveal something of his love for each one of us. Let us remember in a real and vivid way that Heaven did actually come to Earth that first Christmas, Heaven did become one of us, that Immanuel – God with us – brought Heaven as close as could be for all to see, receive and share.



And Heaven continues to be present on earth, just waiting for us to discover the heavenly for ourselves. Re-discover the joy, love and peace of Heaven on earth this Christmas.

God be with you all till we meet again,  
Helen

To read more and see photos, visit my blog: [www.questforspirituality.com](http://www.questforspirituality.com)

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### **A message from Ros**

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2: 1-0-11)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I wonder whether you ever got to play Mary or Joseph in a school nativity? I'm not sure whether being chosen to play Joseph was a big deal when you were in primary school but being chosen to play Mary certainly was when I was a child and when I was a teacher too. There is kudos, almost celebrity, in playing Mary. There's the hushed atmosphere as Mary walks demurely down the middle of the school hall dressed in blue and white and the knowledge for the rest of us that this was another year missed and not that many more opportunities to come before we are too old!

I was only ever chosen to play Mary twice and both times as an adult when my home church decided, for a couple of years, to put on an adult nativity play. The first time I was chosen was for no reason other than that I was the youngest female in the church at the time (late 20's)! Chris, my husband, got the part of 3<sup>rd</sup> shepherd. The next time we did the adult nativity I had not long earlier given birth and so came, rather helpfully, with a three month old baby boy (good timing or what??!!)...so I got Mary *again* and Tim, our son, got to play Jesus. So far so obvious! The amusing thing was that Chris was promoted from 3<sup>rd</sup> shepherd to Joseph!

It is interesting how quickly human beings manage to impose a hierarchy, and therefore competition, in situations and how young it starts!

In the wonderful gift of Jesus, God does away with human prestige and vying for position. God chose those in the lower echelons of their society to be the parents of the baby Jesus. The angels were sent to bring the good news to local shepherds, so Jesus' first visitors were people beyond the margins of their society...no one would have invited shepherds to visit their new born baby...no one except God! The magi, when they arrived, were also not those who you would have socialised with at that

time...they may have brought expensive presents but they were gentiles...no one would have invited them in...except God!

The gift of Jesus and the good news of 'God with us' is for everyone, without exception. As we gratefully receive this gracious gift ourselves this year, let us commit to look for opportunities to share Jesus with others and let's never forget to look for those on the margins of our society and invite *everyone* for this is what God does.

Christmas blessings,

Ros

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**From Rev Sheila Bishop**

### **The Christmas Story**

The innkeeper said 'There is no room!' His wife knew a baby would be born soon  
So, the couple she took grudgingly round the back where none could see,  
where the animals cows and sheep, standing quietly were asleep  
Then fresh straw she laid on the floor, and with blankets covered the straw.  
Brought some fruit and unleavened bread, made sure the donkey too was fed!  
The young girl's pain etched her face, the man looked around this awful place  
and his heart filled with despair. How could he offer his wife the care  
she'd need to safely birth her son, the Babe, who was God's chosen one?  
Then he remembered the angel who'd come, and told him to take Mary into his  
home  
the cradle he'd made with love and skill to hold the child through good and ill.  
But now in Bethlehem far from home, tired he felt so very alone.  
And later Mary, through pain and stress, welcomed her baby who fed from her  
breast,  
and then they swaddled Him with great care, in a manger crude and bare  
and watched together as He slept- God's promises had been truly kept.

All the heavens filled with light yet only shepherds saw the sight,  
and heard the news that Christ had come and full of joy came at a run,  
looking for a Babe in a manger bed, and found Him just as the angels said!  
Returning to work they spread the word of everything they had seen and heard,  
and Mary treasured her baby Son, Saviour of the world- God's Chosen One.



## Community....



Put soap at the top of this year's Christmas list to save lives, urges Christian Aid. The humble bar of soap has morphed into a key tool in the global fight against coronavirus across the world this year and Christian Aid is urging the public to put it at the top of their 2020 Christmas list.

In Ethiopia, where coronavirus is an additional threat to lives on top of the climate crisis and the locust swarms of 2020, Christian Aid partners are training women to make soap from the drought resistant aloe vera plant. The soap not only protects the women's own families but provides a vital source of income.

As online shopping continues its meteoric rise, Christian Aid this year has expanded its digital gift selection to include a charity gift enabling supporters to help train more women to make soap for £15 or provide clean water for £30. See <https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk/collections/all/products/train-soap-maker>

### **WHAM Nightshelter - Update and call for volunteers**

WHAM will be running from Friday 18th December offering an emergency bed to anyone who finds themselves forced to sleep rough. There will be one single venue at the former Revolution Bar on Mill Street, a large space so guests & volunteers can be well-distanced from each other. There will only be simple overnight accommodation & meals. Rachel Mayers has done a great job finding the location & obtaining the permissions, funding & equipment. Her team is extremely grateful to the landlords, the property agent, Kate Hancock of Wains Solicitors who has generously completed the legal formalities & Councillor Liz Braithwaite. There is still an urgent need for volunteers, especially for the overnight shifts from 10pm to 8am & for a daytime cleaning & preparation. All volunteers will be fully trained in safe procedures. Anyone interested should contact Richard Ainley, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 07443 463910 or [maccnightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:maccnightshelter@gmail.com)

### **Hope Centre Refurbishment**

The Trustees & Management Team is preparing for the long-term future by refurbishing the ground floor of The Hope Centre installing a commercial kitchen. The Team looks forward to welcoming everyone back to a loving, caring café as soon as it is practicable in the New Year where they can meet friends & help the Team to provide meals for those in need. The Team asked me to express its gratitude to all those at St Peter's Church, Windmill Street who have so generously shared their kitchen facilities throughout the COVID crisis so that Emily and Peter & their volunteers could prepare food for those in the hostels & on the streets. There is a great need for equipment to complete the refurbishment. If your Church &/or your Church members would like to contribute, please contact Bob Boland at [bob-boland@jerome-associates.co.uk](mailto:bob-boland@jerome-associates.co.uk). The Team appreciates this is a particularly challenging time & asks that everyone supports their plans in Prayer as The Hope Centre seeks to make an even greater impact in demonstrating the 'Love of God' in our community.

Just for fun!

# Advent

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

ADORE  
AGE  
CALENDAR  
CHRISTINGLE  
DONKEY  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
NEW  
SAVE  
SONG  
THECOMING  
WAIT

ADVENT  
ANGEL  
CELEBATE  
CHRISTMASTREE  
FOURTHSUNDAY  
LORD  
MARY  
PAROUSIA  
SKY  
STAR  
TRAVEL  
WISE

ADVENTUS  
BETHLEHEM  
CHRISTIAN  
DAVID  
HAIL  
LOVE  
NAZARETH  
PRAYER



## Advent Group events

### [Join in one of the Advent Groups for 2020](#)

| When                                                     | Where                                                  | What                                                              | How Do I Join?                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAYS<br>7-8pm<br>(starts 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov)        | Online via<br>zoom (by<br>Gawsworth)                   | Reflects on<br>the film Elf                                       | <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87154561929">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87154561929</a><br>Meeting ID: 871 5456 1929<br><b>Graham</b> |
| TUESDAYS<br>1-2pm<br>(starts 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec)        | Online via<br>zoom (by<br>Macclesfield)                | Reflects on<br>the film Elf                                       | <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89109822209">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89109822209</a><br>Meeting ID: 891 0982 2209<br><b>Graham</b> |
| WEDNESDAYS<br>10-11.30am<br>(starts 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec) | Online via<br>zoom<br>(by Broken<br>Cross)             | Studying 'In<br>the Bleak<br>Midwinter'<br>book by<br>Rachel Mann | Access via Meeting ID:<br>856-0990-1813<br><b>Helen</b>                                                                                 |
| WEDNESDAYS<br>7.30-9pm<br>(starts 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec)   | Online via<br>zoom (by<br>Poynton &<br>Green<br>Close) | Studying 'At<br>Home in<br>Advent' book<br>by Gordon<br>Giles     | Contact <b>Ros</b> for details                                                                                                          |
| THURSDAYS<br>10-11.30am<br>(starts 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov) | Online via<br>zoom (by<br>Prestbury &<br>St Peters)    | 4 Characters<br>from the<br>Christmas<br>Story                    | Access via Meeting ID: 847-6270-8696<br><b>Helen</b>                                                                                    |

We hope that you will be able to take the opportunity to join a group and reflect together on the meaning of Advent.

**Please let the relevant Minister know if you are planning to attend, thank you.**





## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

20 December 2020 10.30am - Virtual Nativity Play



**Virtual Nativity**  
Sunday 20th Dec  
Premieres on  
 **YouTube**

To find out more visit:  
 **@MacclesfieldCircuit**



With children and adults from across the Circuit, join us for a special online version

24 December 2020 4.00 pm - Christingle



**Christingle 'in a bag' 24th Dec 4pm**

Book no later than  
Thurs 17th Dec to  
receive your  
Christingle kit

Bags will be available to  
collect on Sat 19th Dec  
10am-12pm from your  
local Methodist Church

**LIVE on** 

make your own  
Christingle during  
the service on  
YouTube. All you  
need to provide  
is an orange

To book email: [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com)

To find out more visit:  
 **@MacclesfieldCircuit**



Christingle this year will be a circuit event and will be for everyone just like normal (not just for the children). This year it will be a Christingle 'in a bag'. The service will be live on Youtube on Christmas Eve at 4pm. All you have to do is register by emailing [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com) by Thursday 17th December with the number of Christingle kits you require and which church you will be collecting from on the 19th December. If you are unable to collect please let us know and we will arrange a delivery with you. Once you have your Christingle Kit, all you need to add to it is an orange. So spread the word with your family and friends.

**24 December 2020 11.30 pm – Christmas Eve Communion**  
**At Prestbury, to attend book via [admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@prestburymethodistchurch.org.uk)**  
This Service will also be available online with home communion sets available for collection from your local church at the same time as the Christingle bags.

**ALSO COMING UP:**

**Blue Christmas** – a short service of comfort and light for those who find this season hard to cope with.

**All available via the You Tube channel**  
**Online links will be emailed to contacts when available**

## **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**

Local church services will take place as follows:-

**BROKEN CROSS – 10.30am Rev Helen Byrne**  
Book via Dai Jones - [daij@ntlworld.com](mailto:daij@ntlworld.com)  
**GAWSWORTH – 10.30am Rev Graham Edwards**  
Book via Carolyn Boden - [carolynboden@gmail.com](mailto:carolynboden@gmail.com)  
**MACCLESFIELD – 9.45am Rev Helen Byrne**  
Book via Julia Tibbles - [juliatibbles@hotmail.com](mailto:juliatibbles@hotmail.com)  
**POYNTON – 10.30am Rev Ros Watson**  
Book via Mandy Hawkyard  
[mandy.hawkyard@btinternet.com](mailto:mandy.hawkyard@btinternet.com) and 01625 875032

Each church will have their own procedures for attendance and you will be notified at the time, but please also note the following:

- ***Do not attend if you or someone in your household is feeling unwell in any way***
- ***You will need to wear a face covering, please bring one with you***
- ***You will be required to maintain social distancing rules***

## SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 13 December – Advent 3

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... : <http://tiny.cc/Advent3>

The Reading is Luke 1 v.46-55

**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 December - Virtual Nativity 10.30am

Christmas Eve – Christingle 4pm

Christmas Eve – Communion 11.30pm

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

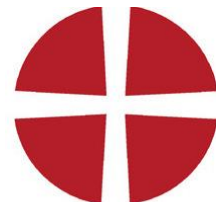


**FREE** phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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 Helen Byrne

Tel: 01625 572259

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

Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

Email: [ros.watson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:ros.watson@methodist.org.uk)

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