



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

39th Issue: 21st February 2021

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

There is a clock on the mantelpiece in my living room which is unlike any other clock in the house. It was awarded to Mr G Edwards (my Grandfather George) in 1953, for working 25 years in the same company! What makes it unlike any other clock is the fact that it needs to be wound. It lasts a couple of days on a full wind, but then as you would expect it stops! This has caused me a few moments of panic, as I glance at the clock and think I have missed a meeting, or I am late for another thing on Zoom. Occasionally it takes me a few moments to make sense of the world again when the clock has stopped as I think "that can't possibly be the right time". Then it clicks – I need to reset the clock! It only takes a couple of minutes and then everything settles down ... for a while.



As I write it is Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent is beginning. Lent is a time for resetting, for considering the impact of our faith, our relationship with God and anything that might get in the way. Wesley in his hymn *Open Lord my Inward Ear* writes:

*Show me, as my soul can bear,
the depth of inbred sin;
All my unbelief declare
the pride that lurks within:
Take me, whom Thyself hast bought,
and bring into captivity
Every high aspiring thought
that would not stoop to Thee.*

For many Lent means giving something up, for others it means starting something new, the idea being that this will help us move towards a closer connection with God. It is a time to remember God's goodness, and know God's grace, not simply to be consumed with

*Remember that
you are dust*



penitence, so that we can reset our life with God as we prepare to celebrate Easter. All this starts with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of the ashes, making the sign of the cross on the forehead with ash from last year's palm branches. In the liturgy, whoever makes the sign of the cross says "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ".

We are dust, and to dust we will return. We are mortal but the grace of God calls us to value this existence, value our lives in this world. Not simply to see this world as a way to the next, but to search, find, and rejoice in the grace of God here and now. Remember you are dust, remember you are mortal - remember this life is short, the opportunities to know God's grace, to share God's grace, to be agents of transformation through God's grace are easily missed, easily wasted. Value this life because God has poured his grace into it.



Remember you are mortal turn from sin and be faithful to God - because then you know what it is to be truly human as God created you to be. Then you will grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. Be faithful so that you might begin to know all the riches of God's grace, be faithful and know what it is to be made in the image of God, be faithful so that you may know your place in the world – as one who lives in God's grace, proclaims God's grace and hears the call to be a minister of that transforming grace in the world.

The journey from Ash Wednesday through Lent to Easter is about self-examination and sometimes confession, but it is so that we can reset ourselves, to know the depth of Gods love and grace again – like winding the clock!

*Lord, my time is in your hand,
my soul to you convert;
you can make me understand,
though I am slow of heart;
yours in whom I live and move,
yours the work, your name divine;
you are wisdom, power, and love,
and all you are is mine.*

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, for this week's focus we will be **exploring the start of Lent**. Resources are attached.



Messy Easter preparations.....

I still need help from all our lovely knitters out there for the knitted cream egg chickens like the one in the picture for our Easter 'in a bag'. I would need these by the beginning of March.

If you can help, please can you contact me at methodistfamilies@gmail.com or 07901777506

Angela

Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Broken Cross this week. This prayer has been provided by Anne Fielding.

Gracious God, we come in faith to offer our prayers to you. We come acknowledging your greatness and power, your compassion and love. We praise you even in the midst of the pandemic. We are shocked by the numbers of lives lost, each one precious to you and to a family, a community. So many are left who are grieving at not being able to be there and hold their loved one at the end, nor say goodbye with dignity.

The disciples cried out to you in the midst of a storm and you brought calm to the sea and to their hearts. You are still the God of peace and we cry out to you in our distress.

Still our hearts we pray, and grant us your peace.

We give thanks for the vaccines and pray that they will be made available to all nations, for we are all your children.

Gracious God, we hold on to the hope we have in Christ that even in the darkest times you are with us and will never forsake us. Help us to share that hope with others when they are sad and sorrowful.

We praise your Name. Amen.

Members' voice - by Alan Rashleigh, Poynton

Faithful Witness

The confidential diaries of Alan Don, Chaplain to the King,
the Archbishop and the Speaker, 1931 – 1946

Edited by Robert Beaken

Published by SPCK

Those of us of a certain age may remember the adverts for Shippams Bloater or Beef paste which said, "It says on the label what's in the jar." The sub-title of the book tells you exactly what to expect.

Although the book will be of interest to academics, it is written in a simple, candid and straight-forward way, which will appeal to anyone who has an interest in the social, political and military upheavals of the 30's and 40's.

I confess not to have previously heard of Alan Don, but I have been pleasantly surprised that he was giant of a man who was highly regarded and trusted by both ecclesiastical and political leaders of all persuasions.

These confidential and private diaries give a phenomenal insight into personal and public views concerning some of the most important events of the time. From the fallout of WW1, the death of two Kings and the abdication of another, being involved as an emissary to leaders of other denominations. He opened communications with the Orthodox Churches with a view to closer co-operation, and met the Pope asking him to intercede with Hitler & Mussolini to bring an end to WW2.

Although he was a Royal Chaplain and the Speakers Chaplain he did not necessarily blindly follow tradition & expected "behaviour". He used the Revised Service Book at services in St Mary Undercroft, despite the fact that the use of the RSB had been rejected by the House of Commons in 1928.

The diaries were not completed everyday, but clearly reflect his observations on the activities at the heart of the UK national life, and the closeness of his friendship with

CC. (It took sometime to decipher who CC was, eventually I found the reference in the notes to the Index, it still took time to workout why Archbishop Lang was referred to as CC – the answer makes a good question on “The Chase”.)

For preachers, Alan Don gives good advice, in the diary entries for December 2nd to 11th, surrounding the Abdication of Edward VIII, on what it is not acceptable to pronounce from the pulpit!

A very good book to have on bookshelf – there is a lot of anecdotes within its pages to embellish a sermon.

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

Signs of Spring

Perhaps as we return to our lockdown routines of daily walks, you may spot a little bit of creation – please take a picture and let us **share some signs of Spring!**

Please send us your pictures for sharing through Mini Messenger and let us celebrate the joy and beauty that is to come.

email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

Some signs of Spring, taken near St James’ church, Gawsworth last weekend.

Susan Mellor, Macclesfield



YouTube

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/c/macclesfieldmethodistcircuit>

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!!

Subscribing will mean you don't miss any services!!

Helen's Blog



Quest for Spirituality

More soon!

Community....

Macclesfield Fairtrade Fortnight

This starts on Monday 22nd February and is normally a celebration of Fairtrade's impact on 1.7 million farmers and workers in 73 countries.

Instead of the usual coffee morning in the Library (usually insured through Hope), the poster display by the primary schools, and the Traidcraft stalls, there will be a briefing by Stefan Donnelly of the Fairtrade Federation about the state of Fairtrade producers and how they are rising to the challenges of COVID and the Climate Crisis.

All are invited to join the Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm to 8.15pm on Tuesday 23rd February. To register, please email Keith Taylor urgently at SKeithTayl2@outlook.com



LENT REFLECTIONS

We are running a series of groups across the Circuit, the sessions are not church specific, join whichever fits best for you.

Broken Cross & Prestbury

In our Lent groups this year we will be discussing the new lent book for 2021 by Archbishop Welby, entitled '*Living His Story: Revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways*'.

Times: weekly every Thursday mornings 10-11am

Dates: from 25th Feb – 25th March (5 sessions)

Anyone is welcome to join in from any of the churches. Helen will be leading these discussions. Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85054816407>

Or use the Meeting ID: 850 5481 6407



Macclesfield & Gawsorth

We're using the film 'Mary Poppins Returns' to aid our reflections. It's called "Where the Lost Things Go". It's not essential to book, but would help us to know who is coming, so please email Graham with which one you hope to share in.



Monday 7-8pm from 22 February -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83780462936?pwd=WmhPYzZGaTZXdERaMFE2VGZidGRXUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 8046 2936

Passcode: 482365

Tuesday 1-2pm from 23 February -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83759023095?pwd=QTY0eHBUSDdEaTJEUWkzTkJEEdWRMUT09>

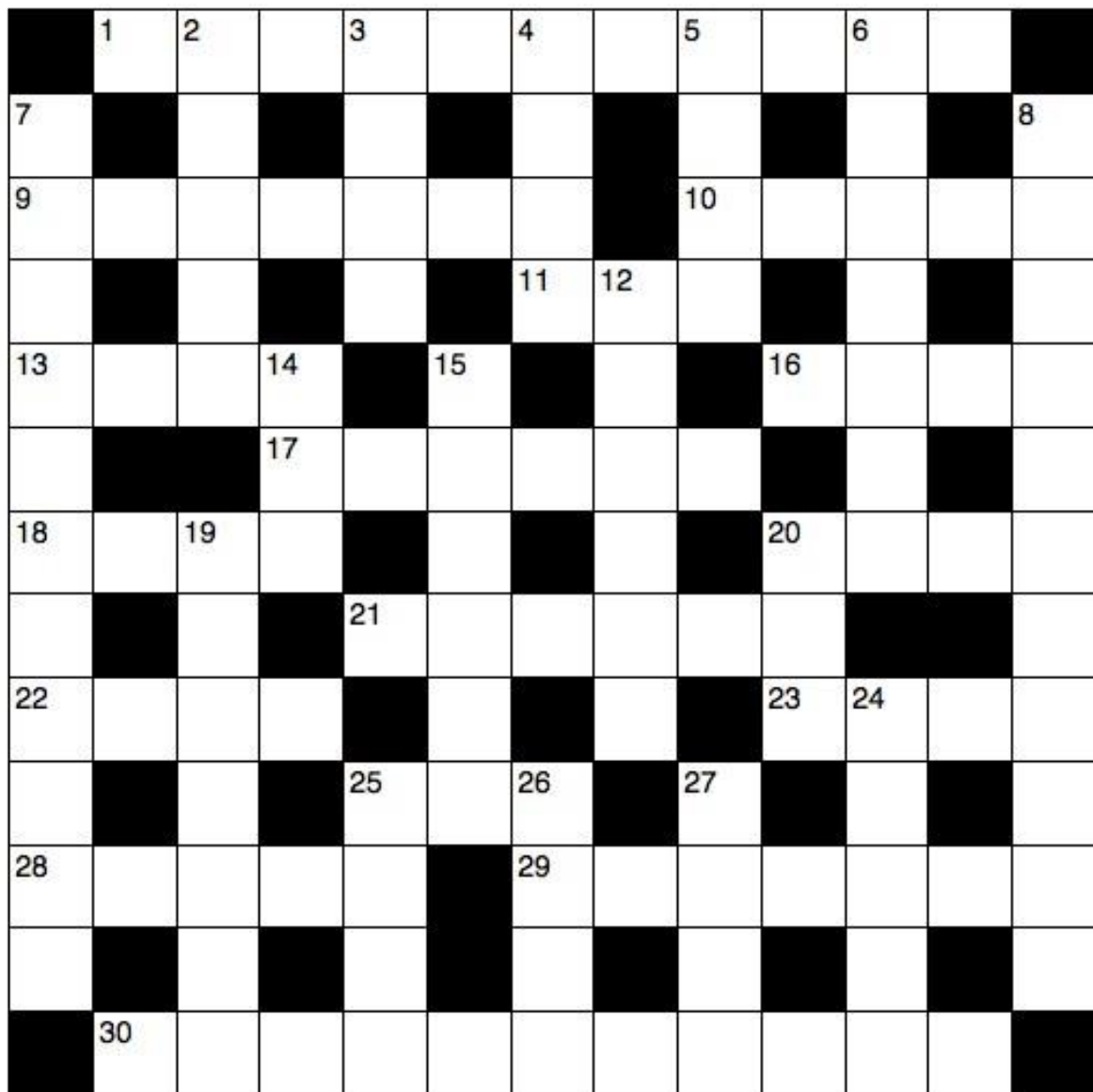
Meeting ID: 837 5902 3095

Passcode: 589229

Poynton

In our Lent groups this year we are looking at the Beatitudes found in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5. We will be using the study guide, 'Life Attitudes: A 5 Session Course on the Beatitudes for Lent' by Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield. There will be two groups Tuesday 3-4pm beginning on 23rd February and Wednesday evening 8-9pm beginning on 24th February. Please let me know if you are going to come along...everyone is welcome. Ros.

Just for fun!



Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)

- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 21 February

AM – Morning worship led by Helen

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/lent-1>

The Reading is Mark 1 v.12-14

LISTEN.....DIAL IN - 01625 786346 (Available from 10am Sun)

FACEBOOK..... : <https://www.facebook.com/MacclefieldCircuit/>

YOUTUBE..... <https://www.youtube.com/c/macclesfieldmethodistcircuit>

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.....

28 February - Ros

7 March - Graham

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

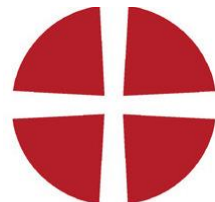


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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>

Contact Details

For Children & Families

Angela Bourne

Tel: 07901 777506

Email: methodistfamilies@gmail.com

Ministers

Rev Graham Edwards

Tel: 01625 426051

Email: graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk

Rev Helen Byrne

Tel: 01625 572259

Email: helenmethodist@gmail.com

Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

Email: ros.watson@methodist.org.uk

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.
