



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

41<sup>st</sup> Issue: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

## A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Not long after I moved into the manse in Macclesfield, I managed to lock myself in the porch. Now, you might wonder how I managed to do something so stupid, but I



maintain that it was all because of the locks. The outer door of the porch was locked – this one only locks with the key, but the inner door is a Yale lock and locks when it's pulled closed. I went into the porch without a key, pulled the inner door closed and there I was locked in the porch! It took a few moments to compute, and then I began to think about how to get out (I didn't have my phone with me, so the options were quite limited). I stood there wondering how long it would take to get out, looking out of the windows and imagining the day turn to night, and then day again, imagining the seasons passing as I gazed through the windows from my confinement (a little melodramatic I know). Then I broke back into the house, went and bought a new

lock, fitted it and all was well (yes, I have some 'skills' beyond ministry – beware!). This event taught me a valuable lesson – to make sure I have all I need before I go through the door! There are some things I know I'll need – for instance my keys, but then as I look through the window in the door, I begin to see other things I might need. A coat, or an umbrella, boots or a snow shovel, or any number of other things! What the world outside looks like, tells me what I might need to carry with me.

God calls us into the world with the message of the Gospel, to share our faith, to let all people know the truth and power of Gods love! So, what do we need to carry with us? As we look at the view, the world outside our metaphorical doors, what do we need to take with us? In Philippians 2, Paul writes

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete



by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

That's what we carry with us, in the way we interact with each other, with our friends in other churches and traditions, with those we meet in school, in college, at work, in the street, and everywhere else! Love, be humble, don't think of yourself above others – these are the things of grace. The grace that God shows in his interaction with humanity, in Jesus Christ, and at our best in every Christian disciple. Carry grace with you as you travel in the world. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote "being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will". We sometimes fixate on the wrong things – being so careful with our lives and

buildings and everything else in case they are dirtied by our work in the world! I remember one church I was involved with locking the doors to the worship area because some of the youth club had had the audacity to go in there one week! They locked it so these young people could never get back in and dirty that sacred space! That's missing the point, that's fixating on the wrong stuff! We are called to carry grace in all we do, courageously and actively doing God's will! The Easter egg project we are sharing with the Lions is one way we do that, but there are others – some for us to do together, some for us in our individual life of discipleship to do!

As our world changes, as we find our way and listen for God's call – look out of the window and ask, "what do I need to take with me?" and then remember it's grace you need, we need to carry 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.**

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### **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!!!.

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## 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 together the story of the Jesus clearing the temple. – John 2 v.13-22.**

Resources are attached.



### Easter Eggs for Schools



#### Would you like to support this campaign?

The Macclesfield Methodist Circuit have teamed up with the Macclesfield Lions to gift an Easter egg to every child in local primary schools in recognition of the resilience the children have shown over the last year, in the way that they have made sacrifices to protect their families and community.

We are currently working with 6 schools in the Macclesfield area who have the highest percentage of children receiving a free school meal. With the six schools we are covering each housing estate in Macclesfield, but not every school within these estates.

Would you like to help support this campaign by donating the cost of an egg, which is £1 per child? With your donations we may be able to offer this to more schools. If so, you can pay your donation directly into our bank account using the reference **Easter Eggs**.

Bank details:

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit

Account Number: 53552667

Sort code: 20-45-45

Ref: **Easter Eggs**

If you would like to donate but do not have internet banking please contact me on 07901777506 and we can sort something out.

Donations would have to be received by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Along with the egg the children will receive an Easter card, saying thank you and reminding them that spring is a time for new life, beginnings and hope for the future.

Thanks Angela.

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**Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Langley this week. This prayer has been provided by Derek McBryde.**

We pray that God's healing hand may rest upon those who have contracted and are suffering from Coronavirus. We pray for medical doctors, nurses and the supporting staff who are in the frontline of the fight against it. May God sustain them and inspire them to deliver their life-saving services with due care, love, and compassion.

We offer our deepest sympathies to all those who have lost loved ones. We pray that God may grant them his consolation and that He will strengthen their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. We pray that we will not be indifferent to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one; or who suffer from the absence of work.

Heavenly Father, we place into your care all the refugees, the migrants and the homeless. We lift our voices to you for those who don't have anyone to hear their suffering and pain; for those who don't have anyone to love and care; for those who don't have anyone to tell their stories. We pray for their courage of heart and strength of mind and body. Keep them safe from harm.

Lord, we pray for those who need ongoing medical treatment who are forced to wait at this time. Please watch over their health and help them to stay positive and patient.

We pray that we will soon overcome this global crisis and that afterwards we can build a more just and humane world. Give wisdom to our Government, scientific and medical advisors, as they face up to the challenging decisions they must make.

Grant us the courage not to rush back to our old ways, but to rebuild our world together, creating foundations of justice, with equality and peace for all.

We lovingly pray for our Circuit, for our Ministers, Graham, Helen and Ros. We thank you for the inspiring worship on-line each Sunday and for the zoom outreach to children and families. We thank you for the Macclesfield Messenger which keeps us in touch and reminds us that we are a family. We lift before you everyone who works on this and contributes to it. Thank you for our pastoral visitors and all their efforts to keep in touch with those under their care.

Almighty God, our protector, let us trust in you to carry us through this time of uncertainty. Thank you for the hope you have given us. Thank you that we can give our worries to you and, above all, can trust in your unfailing love. For you have promised us "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."

Amen

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**Members' voice** - by Mandy Hawkyard, Poynton

Last week Graham asked us how God communicates with us or rather how/where do we expect God to communicate with us - in Church, through the Bible, through a hymn for example.

Just before Ros arrived at Poynton we lost a very popular member of our Church - Some of you will remember Mart Roger who led Manchester Jazz, a very popular

jazz group in the area. He was an active member at Poynton Methodists, and I had grown very fond of Mart and his wife Janet. They always had a smile on their faces. When he died the family asked me to take the funeral as I knew him so well.

We soon realised that PMC might not be big enough to hold all the mourners and we changed the venue to a much larger Church nearby. I went down early one morning to meet the Minister so he could show me round – to check I could see over the lectern – (rather important – I am well under 5 ft!) and that I knew how to work the sound system. It felt rather like cooking an important meal in someone else’s kitchen! When I arrived a prayer group was meeting so I simply slipped into the group. They were all very kind. But as I left the Church my sadness increased – I had been in a church, and no-one had prayed about the situation. On the other hand, it was probably my fault - why hadn’t I asked them to. I’m sure they would have.

As I walked up Park Lane, I thought I’ll cheer myself up -I’ll get a takeaway coffee from Costa and walk home, something I very rarely do. I’m waiting in the queue to be served and in my hand I have a CD with Mart’s picture on it. “That looks interesting” a voice next to me said. I showed him what it was and during the short conversation I told him very briefly what I was about to do. Our coffees arrived and we left the shop together. Being a gentleman, he held the door open for me and as I passed him he said - “Do you have to rush off. I’d like to pray for you. Will you join me at one of the tables outside?” Completely taken aback I blurted out, “Who are you?” He explained he was from a nearby town and he ran a small evangelical church there. I then discovered I knew his Mum! And so I agreed. I can’t remember exactly what he prayed but I do know I had the strong feeling of God’s strengthening presence in that situation. It was as though this man had read my mind. But what had really happened. I had inwardly shouted out my frustration and disappointment to God and this man had responded to the nudge from God to act. So, watch out, God speaks even in Costa coffee!

***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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**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](mailto:macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com)**

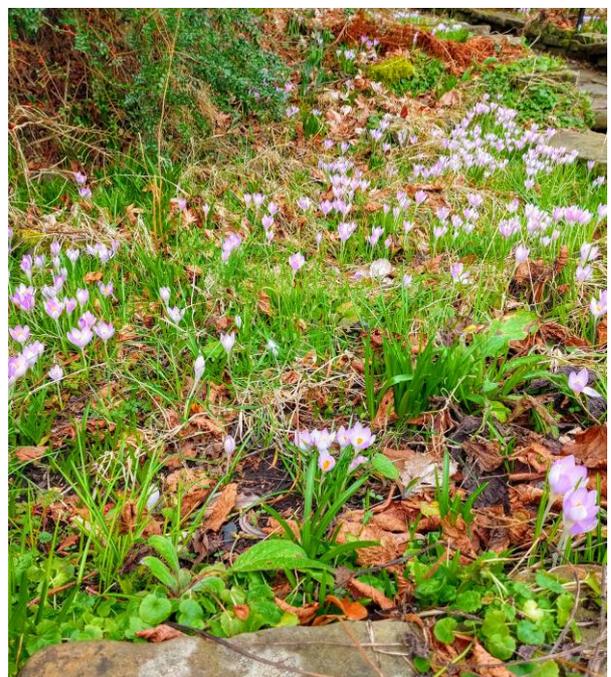
What a beautiful weekend of sunshine we had last week!

Here are some pictures from Gill Oldham,  
Poynton.



And some from Ruth James, Broken Cross  
also from last weekend.

This one of crocuses from a recent walk...



And these front garden snaps....



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## 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!!**

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## Helen's Blog



Quest for Spirituality

More soon!

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## LENT REFLECTIONS

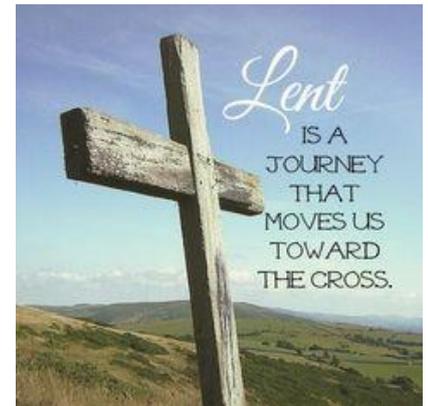
We are running a series of groups across the Circuit, the sessions are not church specific, join whichever fits best for you.

### 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 25<sup>th</sup> Feb – 25<sup>th</sup> March (5 sessions)

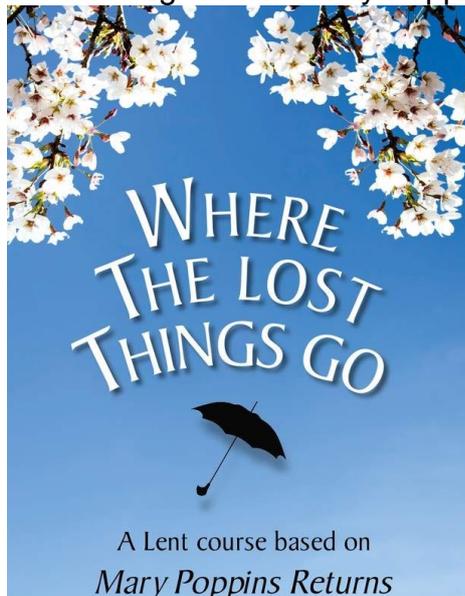


Anyone is welcome to join in from any of the churches. Helen will be leading these discussions. Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85054816407>

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=QTY0eHBUSdEaTjEUWkzTkJEWRMUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 5902 3095

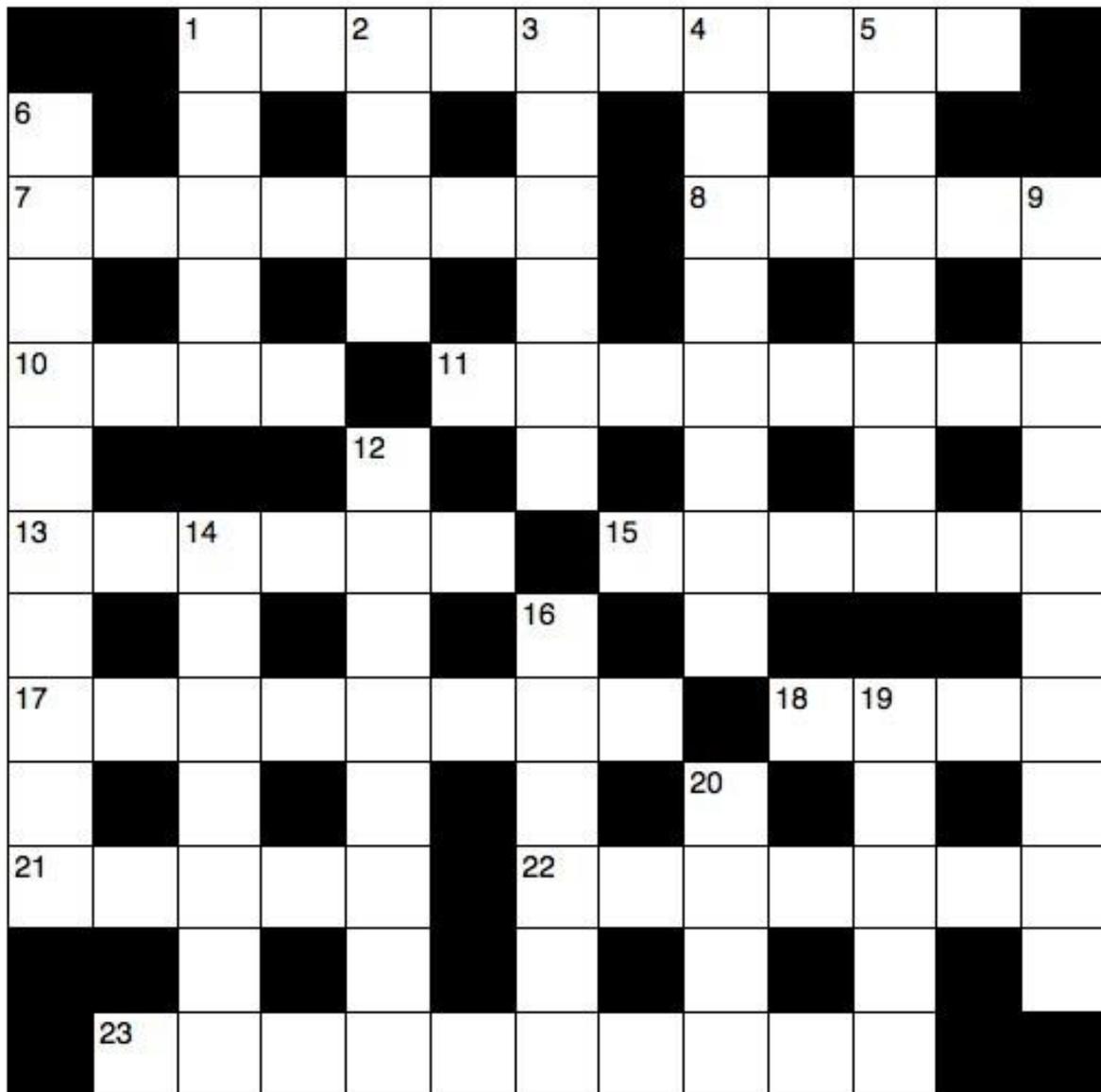
Passcode: 589229

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February and Wednesday evening 8-9pm beginning on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Please let me know if you are going to come along...everyone is welcome. Ros.

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**Just for fun!**



**Crossword Clues**

**Across**

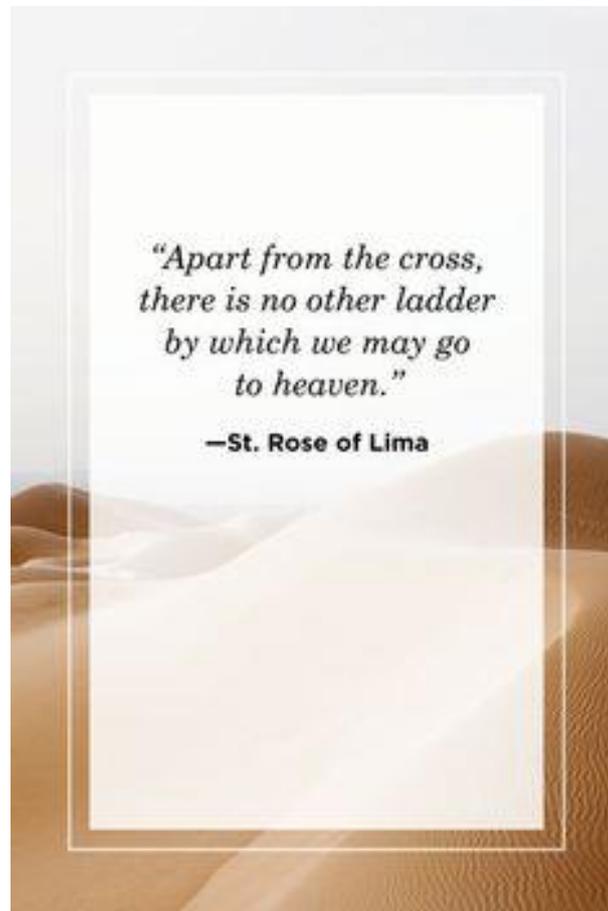
- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)

- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)  
21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)  
22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)  
23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

### Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)  
2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)  
3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)  
4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)  
5 Sing out (anag.) (7)  
6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)  
9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)  
12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)  
14 See cape (anag.) (7)  
16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)  
19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)  
20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

### Parish Pump



## SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 7 March

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham

**WATCH ONLINE .....** : <http://tiny.cc/lent-3>

The Reading is John 2 v.13-22

**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.....**

14 March - Helen

21 March - Ros

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

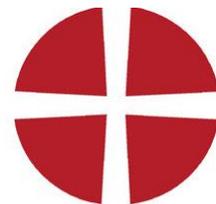


**FREE** phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a **prayer**: 0808 281 2514

Listen to **news**: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown? The **Church of England** have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

## Circuit Facebook page

For the latest information on what is happening within the circuit, follow....

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

## Other important links

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/MWoL>

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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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## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1, Priesthood. 7, Replica. 8, Get up. 10, Calf. 11, Governor. 13, See you. 15, Not see. 17, Incident. 18, Sake. 21, NSPCC. 22, Trample. 23, Perishable.

**DOWN:** 1, Papal. 2, In it. 3, Shalom. 4, Huguenot. 5, Outings. 6, Procession. 9, Perseveres. 12, Mordecai. 14, Escapee. 16, Snatch. 19, Apple. 20, Lamb.