



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

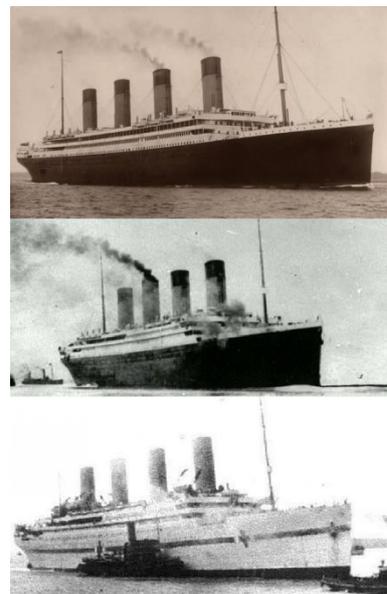
42<sup>nd</sup> Issue: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

## A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

For a long time, I have been fascinated with the Titanic and her wreck. When the wreck was discovered in 1985, there was a piece on the news about it, and I asked my dad "what's the Titanic?" He drew a picture of her, and told me that she was the biggest ship in the world when she sank, and from that point I was fascinated by the story. What I didn't realise at that point was that the Titanic was envisaged as one of three *Olympic Class Liners* – the Olympic, Titanic, and Britannic. The RMS Olympic (top) was the oldest and sailed from 1911 to 1935 when she was scrapped at Jarrow. The RMS Titanic (middle) was next and, of course, sank on her maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg. HMHS Britannic was the last of the three to be built, launched in 1914 she was requisitioned to serve as a hospital ship in 1915. In 1916 she hit a mine in the Aegean Sea and sank in fifty-five minutes.



Why am I telling all this? Well apart from increasing your nautical knowledge, it's because parts of these three great ships still exist. After she was scrapped the fittings of Olympic were auctioned off and ended up in various places. The First-Class lounge is now in a hotel in Alnwick, where it has a different kind of life than it did on the ship. The wreck of the Titanic was discovered in 1985

and found to have broken in half and was covered in stalactite-like growths. These were named "Rusticles" and were found to be the bacteria which was consuming the steel of the ship - a very different life than the ship was designed to carry.



The wreck of the Britannic was discovered in 1975, lying on her side – she had become something of an artificial reef. The ship is teeming with life, its just not what the designers really imagined!



Sometimes life surprises us growing in ways, places, and times that we never really expected. The life in Olympic, Titanic, and Britannic is not what those in the early years of last century imagined, but it is life - and what remains of the three great ships has a new purpose.

In the years to come, the church we are part of will change. Some of this is undoubtedly due to the effect of the Covid pandemic, but some of those changes may well have come to us anyway. We may not look at our buildings in the same way, we may embrace the digital world and find new opportunities, the way we worship may at times feel unfamiliar, the way we engage in meetings may seem strange to us, across the country some churches may close and for many of us there may be sadness and lament at what we see. But have faith, because there will still be life in the church. That life might not be what we expected, or ever imagined, but it will be life and the church will sustain it. The great things we have built over the years will continue to be places of life, places where the goodness of God is known, and places where the work of faithful people over generations will still speak of the hope we have found in Jesus. I'm not suggesting the church is about to become a shipwreck, but the way in which we sustain life, as we hold out the gospel, in the future will, I think, look very different! We are called to put our trust in God, as we are shaped again and again, in God's church.

I don't often quote Calvin, but he wrote this of the church "wherever we see the word of God purely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to Christ's institution, there, it is not to be doubted, a church of God exists". Our job is to work out what that means, how will we preach and hear God's word? How will the sacraments be shared? Whatever it is, it will be different, but it will be church – and it will be a place of life. So, in the days, weeks, and years ahead, hold on to faith, hope, and love, because God is with us, and in those things we will continue to know, and offer, life in the faith we have found.



Life often grows in unexpected and unimagined places, but we shouldn't be surprised as after all this is where our Lenten journey leads 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, for this week's focus we will be **exploring together the story of the Hannah and Samuel – 1 Samuel 1**.

Resources are attached and I have also attached a prayer activity for Mothers Day.

### **Coming up....**

**Messy Easter**

Sat 27th March 2-3pm  
LIVE via ZOOM

All the normal fun of our Messy Easter events  
in the comfort of your own home.

Music  
Craft making  
Story  
Magic  
Activity bag

Email [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com) to reserve a place/bag or PM us on Facebook



# Easter Garden 'in a bag'



Everything you need to create your own Easter Garden plus other activities to do over the Easter period, all 'in a bag'.

All you will have to supply is the soil, glue, scissors and coloured pens/pencils.

Bags will be ready for collection week commencing 22nd March from Broken Cross, Macclesfield and Prestbury Methodist Church's

Email: [methodistfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:methodistfamilies@gmail.com) to reserve your bag.

suggested donation  
**£2**  
per bag

Angela

---

**Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Poynton this week. This prayer has been provided by Jean & Roger Drinkwater.**

Creator God we thank you for the seasons throughout the year, and particularly praise you for the re-emergence of Spring with all its signs of creation and new life. Lambs in the fields, the vibrant colours of flowers and buds bursting forth on shrubs and trees. We thank you for this period of Lent and ask that you may speak to us afresh as we reflect on your word and the events leading up to Easter.

Lord today being Mothering Sunday we ask your blessing on all mothers from teenage Mums to great Grandmothers. Thank you, God, for their love, care and concern and all the joys of family life. Be with those mothers who are struggling to feed their children, and we remember those supporting them by contributing to, and volunteering, in food banks. Be with those mothers who have not been able to see their children due to the pandemic. Thank you for the vaccination programme which hopefully will enable this situation to change. We weep with all mothers whose children have died or disappeared, and remember those who have lost their mothers and ask that you be close to them on this day. Be near to those who find this day difficult particularly those who long for children. Let your love be present in every home.

Living Lord may we lift up our eyes as we start to move out of lock down restrictions to see the world around us and afar, with all its pain and suffering. That we may as

individuals and churches develop new ways of witnessing to, and serving, both the communities within which we live and overseas.

Lord we thank you for providing for our needs, both physical and emotional. But most of all, Lord, we thank you for your presence in our life, Jesus you are the greatest gift of all.

Amen

---

**Members' voice** - by Monica Gent, Macclesfield

Graham's letter in Mini Messenger 2 weeks ago about finding God in quietness had my brain buzzing with a song containing the words "listen for God in quietness". I could remember the tune but only snippets of the words.

I associated it with sitting round a campfire and with help from my friends in Guiding, I now have the words for the whole song. It was written by Sue Stevens and published in "Singing for Joy". I thought others might find it helpful - I have the tune as well!!).

1. Quietly, in the morning, quietly when dawn is near,  
Quietly in the sunrise, quietly God is here.

Chorus

*Listen for God in quietness, listen and you may hear,  
Listen for God in stillness, listen for God is near.*

2. Quietly, in the Springtime, quietly when leaves appear,  
Quietly in the greenness, quietly, God is there.

3. Quietly, in the evening, quietly when stars appear,  
Quietly in the stillness, quietly God is there.

4. Quietly we are gathered, quietly, for night is nigh,  
Quietly close beside us, quietly God is there.

**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)**

---

## 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**



This week, some bud shots from Alan Chapman, Langley.

Isn't the colour of that sky fantastic?



## 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



### **ORGAN MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK 2021**

During the latest lockdown, I have recorded a CD of organ music for Holy Week. It starts with Palm Sunday's chorus of 'HOSANNA' from Jesus Christ Superstar. Pieces for meditation follow preparing the listener for Good Friday's most loved hymns. Our hymn writers always wait for Easter Day to pour out their greatest expressions of faith which I trust are represented here. The last track is Mascagni's EASTER HYMN from his opera Cavalliera Rusticana. The CD is accompanied with the texts to all the music for the listener to follow.

Any donations will go towards the Emergency Appeal from the UK's leading charities for the starving people of the YEMEN.

If you would like a copy, please contact Andy Donaldson on 01625 433187 or [andy.donaldson@mdmt.org.uk](mailto:andy.donaldson@mdmt.org.uk)

## Virtual Easter Trail

The Cadbury Worldwide Hide is a virtual Easter egg hiding experience where you can hide an Easter egg anywhere in the world for someone you love.

You can either purchase one of four Cadbury Worldwide Hide Easter Eggs from a range (UK delivery only) or hide a virtual Easter egg for free on Google Maps Street View and share a personalised clue with your loved one to help them find their hidden Easter egg.

See more at [Welcome - Cadbury Worldwide Hide](#)



---

## JOB VACANCY - Clergy PA & Church Administrator

### St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

St Michael & All Angels Church in Macclesfield Market Place, is part of the Macclesfield Team (comprising All Saints, St Barnabas, St Peter's and St Michael's). As the Town Centre Church, it is the first point of contact for many seeking a church in the town. We are looking for a Clergy PA & Administrator to support the Rector, and the congregation of St Michael's.

Tasks include:

- Managing Life Events (baptisms, weddings and funerals) for churches in the team
- To be the primary contact for St Michael's Church community, including civic and Town Centre functions.,
- To coordinate appropriate methods of communication, in accord with the church's vision, ministry and mission, for members of St Michael's and the wider public.
- To provide PA support for the ministry of the Rector of St Michael's and administration of the congregation.

The role is for 20 hours per week and has flexibility to negotiate working from home and working days.

Closing date: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm; interviews will be held during the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> March

For a full role description and application form please contact Rachel Mayers by email [rachel.mayers@btinternet.com](mailto:rachel.mayers@btinternet.com).

---

## LENT REFLECTIONS

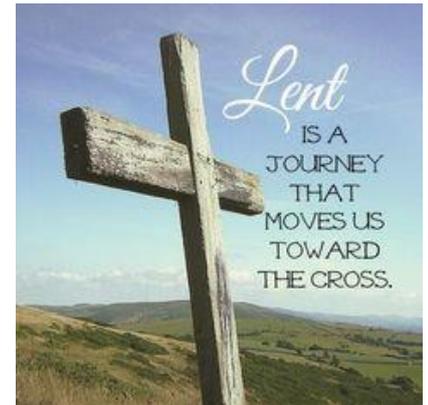
We are running a series of groups across the Circuit, the sessions are not church specific, join whichever fits best for you.

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

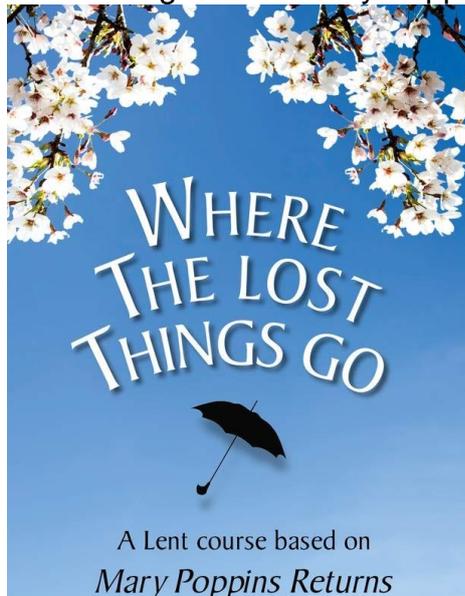


Anyone is welcome to join in from any of the churches. Helen will be leading these discussions. Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85054816407>

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=QTY0eHBUSDdEaTJEUWkzTkJEWRMUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 5902 3095

Passcode: 589229

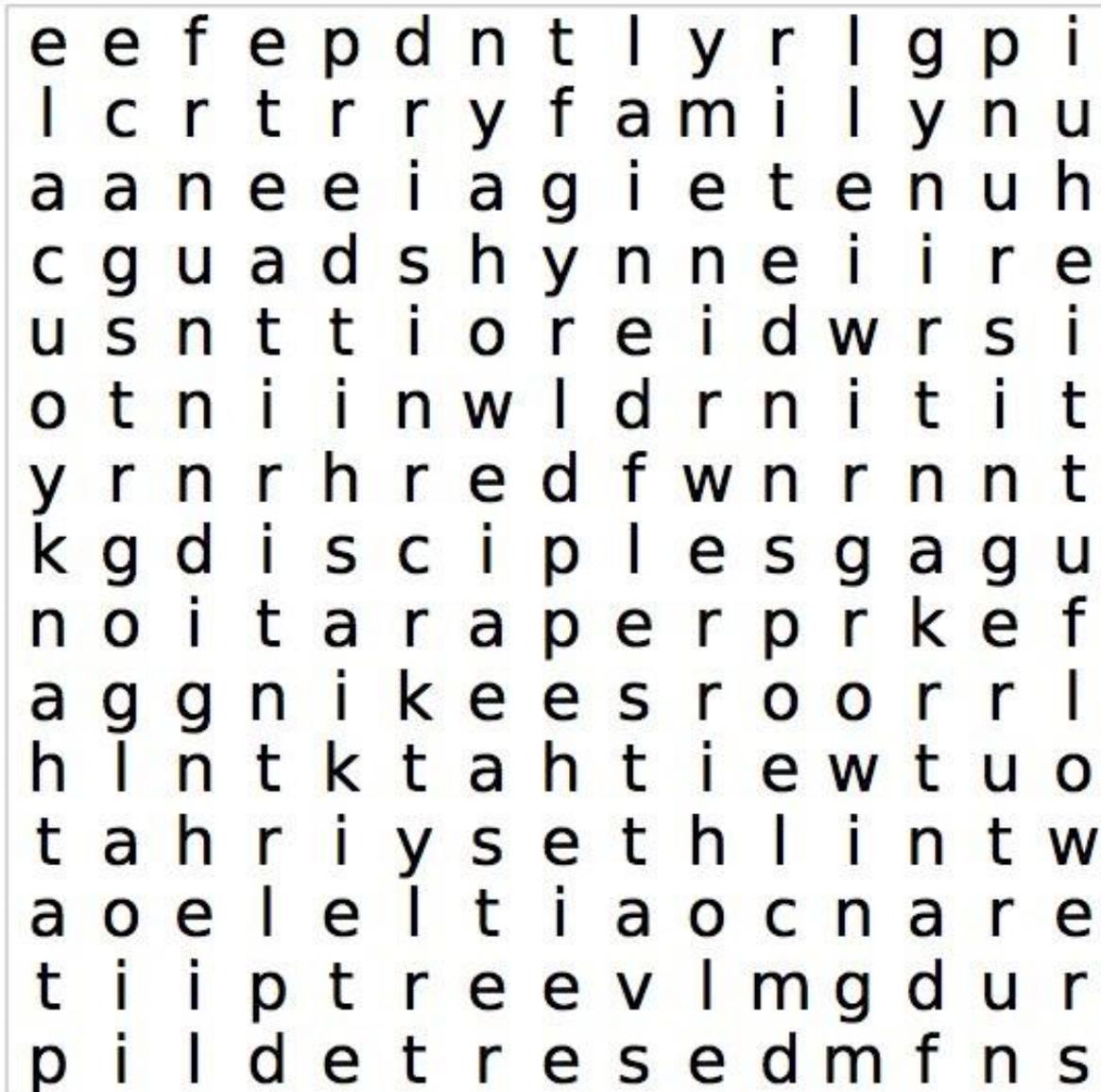
### Poynton

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.

---

## Just for fun!

March brings us Lent and today, Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this Word Search?



lent  
spiritual  
easter  
preparation  
fasting  
prayer

desert  
selfdenial  
repentance  
seeking  
finding  
growing

mothers  
love  
care  
nurture  
learning  
teaching

disciples  
worldwide  
flowers  
thankyou  
nursing  
family

## SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

### Sunday 14 March – Mothering Sunday

**AM** – Morning worship led by Helen

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

The Reading is Colossians 3 v.12-15

**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.....

21 March - Ros

28 March - Graham

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

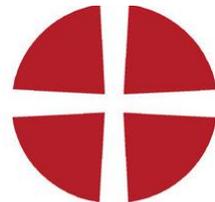


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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](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)

---