



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

43rd Issue: 21st March 2021

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

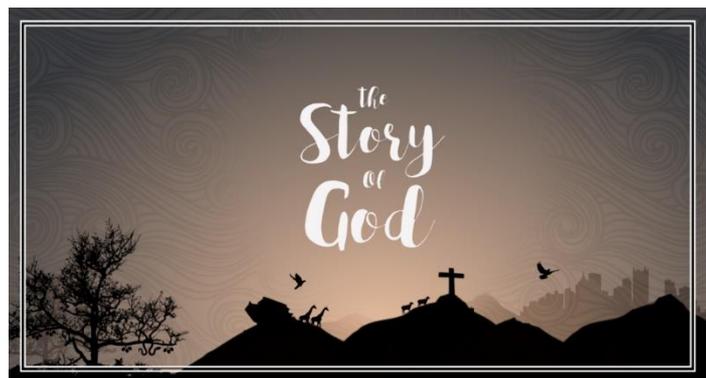
For many years my eyebrows gave me away. They sometimes seemed to have a



life of their own and would respond to the things I was seeing or hearing without my permission. They would reveal my surprise, or revulsion, my shock or disbelief, my confusion or my annoyance. However, I worked very hard to get them under control, and only occasionally do they break free. Over the last year, as so many things have

been done on zoom (or another video conferencing platform!) and as most of the body language we communicate with is through our facial expressions, I have been reminded of the eyebrow issue. Sometimes we want to hide our reactions or at least control them, but sometimes we want others to see them! There is a YouTube trend of "reaction" videos – I'm sure you've spent hours watching them and don't need me to describe them ... but humour me. In these videos the YouTuber watches something and you watch their reaction – sometimes they listen to music, or watch live performances, sometimes it's a film or tv programme and so on. What is even more remarkable than the fact that these things exist, is that they sometimes get tens of thousands of views!

How do you react to the Gospel story? How do I react to it? We tell the great story again and again in worship, Bible study, in our personal devotions, and in countless other ways. The story of Gods creative, redemptive restorative work is so wonderful, so powerful that it has been told for thousands of years and will be told for as long as the earth exists. Stanley Hauerwas, an American Ethicist, argues that the whole life of Discipleship and the church is shaped by the gospel story. For Hauerwas, it is the story of scripture that forms the community of the church, and the community



of the church becomes the continuation of that story in the world. We continue the story when we live the Gospel in the world, when we live by its values and live in its grace, when we allow the Gospel to transform us, to re-shape us and reveal God's goodness. But when we hear the great story, do we try to keep our reactions hidden and private, or do we let the world know that this story has spoken grace and love to us?

When we hear of God's creative power, when we hear of God's faithfulness, when we hear of God's justice, when we hear of God's forgiveness, when we hear of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, when we hear of the gift of the Holy Spirit, when we hear of countless lives transformed, and when we encounter the truth of God's story in our lives, how will we react? Hide it away or call all the world to come and see? In their book *So What's the Story*, Barbara Glasson and Clive Marsh write:

we are called into this great love story with God, a story that spans not just our lives but the whole of eternity. We are the main character and a walk on part. Our narrative intertwines and connects with the great Biblical themes of creation, redemption, death, resurrection, judgement, and salvation. It calls us into life in all its fullness, its despair and elation, its chaos and delight. It is a story about what happens ultimately, one in which we are all caught up until God the Author writes the final chapters and calls all creation home.

As Lent comes toward its end for another year, and we prepare to tell the story of Easter – open your ears, your eyes and your heart to it – and let your eyebrows loose! Tell the world of God – whose story has not and will not end – and his love for all people. God's story continues in us, so let's not hide it away, but call others to find their place too. Why? Well as the author of John's Gospel wrote:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written [in the Bible and in us!] that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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 Jesus speaking about his own death – John 12 v.20-33**. Resources are attached.

Angela

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 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 to reserve your bag.

suggested donation
£2
per bag

Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Green Close this week. This prayer has been provided by Stephan Rudolfer.

We come in prayer, worship and adoration to You, our wonderful, mighty, loving, healing and sustaining God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

O Lord, it is good to know Your Presence during these turbulent and trying times, with so much sadness and suffering throughout these troubled isles. We pray for all those who have lost loved ones or suffered the consequences of coronavirus themselves. We also pray for the NHS staff, who have now for over a year been sacrificing themselves in the service of others. Lord, please be with them, and hold them tenderly in Your powerful, loving and healing arms. We praise You for the tremendous progress made with the COVID vaccines, and that so many people have already been vaccinated. We ask You, Holy Spirit, to inspire the government in their allocation of vaccines, making sure that those most at risk are the earliest to get vaccinated. We also ask You to fill this nation with common-sense and discipline, so that there may not be yet another flare-up of the pandemic. We pray for the many small businesses which have been so severely hit by the various stages of lockdown. Be with them, Lord, to comfort them and guide them how to get out of their difficulties. Lord, we pray that, in Your own unique and wonderful way, You may bring blessing and beauty out of the trouble and ugliness that so many people are going through at the present time.

Looking outside our own concerns, we praise You, Almighty God, that the near-successful attack on American democracy was thwarted and overcome. We pray for

our American brothers and sisters, asking You to guide, strengthen and uphold their new Christian president in his efforts to unite and heal his divided and violent country.

To You, O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be all glory, worship and honour!

Amen.

Members' voice - by Olwen Cartledge, Macclesfield

Sir Captain Tom Moore Poems

TOMORROW WILL BE A GOOD DAY

I was thinking today about "Captain Tom Moore"... A hero to behold.
What a wonderful gentleman he lived till he was 100 years old.
His vision for his birthday was to raise money for our NHS.
Staff had worked hard with Covid. Tom really did his best.
The results were quite astounding. His aim was £1000... The donations kept coming in...
The final count was 33 million pounds.
For walking round his garden never in a spin! Oh
What a great example, Tom made us smile again.
Tom led an exciting life we'd not heard of him before.
He will go down in history will Captain Thomas Moore.

SMILE

Smiling is infectious, you can catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too!
I passed around the corner and someone saw me grin, and when he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about the smile a lot and realised it's worth. A single smile like yours and mine could travel round the Earth!
So if you feel a smile begin, don't let it go away. Just think of how it started that lovely sunny day!

Goodbye Tom, bless you for all that walking and commitment to our NHS. Pushing your wheelie Walker. Here's to commitment determination!
Your last battle has been completed... you'll never get defeated.
May God bless you and keep you, and may his eyes shine upon you.
You have brightened up our Covid days and our motto will be "tomorrow will be a good day".

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



New life on the farm, from Doreen Dean, Langley

These three calves at the front of the photo with a white mark on their head, are triplets, they are all girls.



And this dipper seen from the bridge at Jarman, Sutton by Alan Chapman

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

CENSUS – have you done yours?

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. Every household should complete the census on **Sunday 21 March 2021** or as soon as possible after.

LENT REFLECTIONS

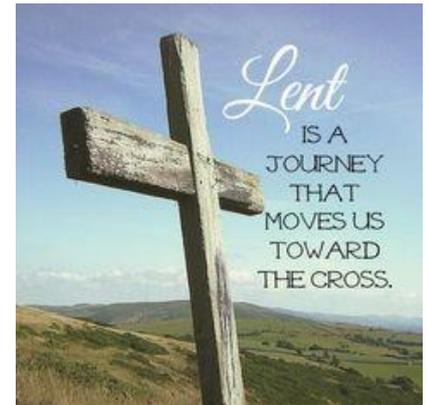
We are running a series of groups across the Circuit, the sessions are not church specific, join whichever fits best for you.

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)

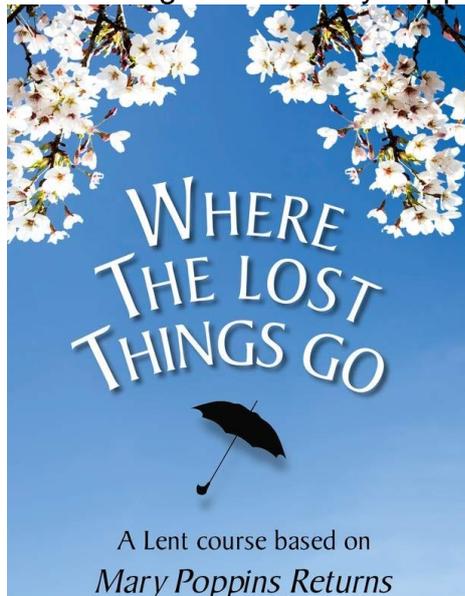


Anyone is welcome to join in from any of the churches. Helen will be leading these discussions. Click here to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85054816407>

Or use the Meeting ID: 850 5481 6407

Macclesfield & Gawsworth

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 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!

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Parish Pump

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 21 March

AM – Morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/lent-5>

The Reading is John 12 v.20-33

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 March – Graham – Palm Sunday

Easter services

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

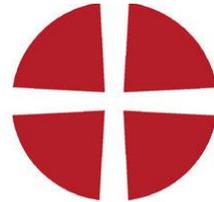


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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
