



# MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

44<sup>th</sup> Issue: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
PALM SUNDAY



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

## A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

2021 has been a hard year. It has, of course, been a hard year because of Covid and all the restrictions we have lived with since last March, but I don't mean that.



You see, everything was looking OK until 2021 began, then it all fell apart. At Christmas we were at the top of the table, we had beaten Crystal Palace 7-0, and then the fall began. Currently we sit in 7<sup>th</sup> place, and for some of us around the circuit it has been a very painful time. I am, you will have probably worked out, referring to Liverpool FC. But my scarf is still up. When we won

the Premier league last year, I was given a "Champions" scarf and put it up in the manse, it has been in the background of Messy church events, our summer Holiday club, and it is still there! There have been many dark moments over the years – losing matches to rivals, being beaten in cup finals, seeing great players leave the club, and so on, but my scarf is still up! It is easy to support a team when everything is going well, it's much harder when things seem to be falling apart!

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the story of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem which we know so well. Each Gospel tells the story in a slightly different way – Jesus borrows a donkey and rides into town, crowds gather and celebrate, they lay cloaks and palm branches on the ground, perhaps some wave the branches in the air! The crowd sing (or shout) part of Psalm 118 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" The crowd and the noise must have been an incredible thing – and then comes Jesus riding the donkey, a new kind of King, a king of peace. Yet what happens in the days following? The cheering stops, the street is cleared, and the branch waving ceases – so what's happened? Jesus gives a clue in Luke's Gospel, after the triumphal entry Jesus weeps – because the people have missed the point, they haven't



realised what is going on, they haven't realised who Jesus really is – and when things seem to go wrong, no one is waving a palm branch for the king.

There is a danger that we too, go very quiet in Holy Week - we celebrate the amazing entry to Jerusalem, but we'd rather quietly ignore the dark, difficult parts and leap to Easter Sunday! In the days after Palm Sunday everything seems to be



turned on its head – a disciple betrays Jesus, the rest run and hide, the crowd who shouted “Hosanna” seem to be replaced by a crowd shouting “crucify”, the one who brings life seems to be swallowed by death, the one who brings hope is sealed in a hopeless tomb, the one who is light is overshadowed by darkness. Yet even in all this mess there is grace and hope and love – “remember me”, “forgive them”, “it is

finished”. God calls us to travel in the places where the cheers are harder to hear, and carry with us the grace that we have received so that we might share it with all we meet.

When he reflects on the triumphal entry, Tom Wright asks “are we ready not only to spread our cloaks on the road in front of him, to do the showy and flamboyant thing, but also to follow him into trouble, controversy, trial and death?”

Don't ignore these next few days, don't pass them by – walk slowly through them with your palm or your scarf flying high for all to see. This is our King – the one on the donkey, and the one on the cross.

*For homage may we bring Thee  
Our victory o'er the foe,  
That in the Conqueror's triumph  
This strain may ever flow.*

Theodulph of Orleans. Tr John Mason Neale

*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 Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey – Mark 11 v.1-11.**

Resources are attached.

Angela

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**Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Macclesfield this week. This prayer has been provided by Ian Wardle.**

Risen Lord Jesus, on this Palm Sunday we remember Your triumphal entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, and in our hearts may we travel with You through this Holy Week as we contemplate Your passion, suffering, agony and crucifixion and thank You that You died for us all. Next Sunday we shall celebrate Your glorious resurrection and look forward to being able to worship together again. We pray that You, who healed the sick and gave them new life, will be with the doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of Your healing touch. In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving; support all who work in the National Health Service at this crucial time and give our Leaders courage, wisdom and patience as we pray for healing and wholeness for all who suffer. As we have just come through 12 months since the start of the pandemic and first lockdown, we remember all who have suffered the loss of loved ones, separation from family members, sickness or financial difficulties caused by the absence of work.

Heavenly Father God of love and hope, You made the world and care for all creation. In the last 12 months the world has seemed strange and the news has been full of disturbing stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill, while others are anxious for their family and friends. Please be with them all and help them to find peace. We place into Your care the refugees, migrants and homeless and those who fear for the future. Thank You that even in these anxious times You are always with us. Help us to put our trust in You and please keep us safe.

Thank You for the vaccines and the renewed hope of better times ahead.

Finally we pray for our Circuit, for our Ministers, Graham, Helen and Ros. We thank You for the inspiring and uplifting online worship each Sunday, for the Sunday evening prayer meetings and the outreach to children and families. Thank you also for the Messenger which keeps us in touch and binds us together as a family in Your love. Thank You also for our pastoral visitors and for the weekly online floral displays and coffee mornings and for everything and everyone who has helped us through the last 12 months.

Thank You that we can know that, whatever happens, nothing can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord.

Amen

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**Members' voice** - by Stephan & Christine Rudolfer, Green Close

ABBA FATHER, let me be yours and yours alone...  
(Singing the Faith 439)

What a strange way to address our Heavenly Father in this hymn! Jesus instructed His followers to pray to the Father, whose Name is to be hallowed, whose kingdom is to be eagerly expected, whose Will is to be done, who is to be trusted to give us enough bread for the day, who will forgive us our sins, in so far as we forgive our enemies, who will protect us from temptation, and who will deliver us from the evil one.

The single word "Abba" does not occur anywhere in the Bible. So Abba Father must mean something very intimate and special. Where is it to be found, and who used this form of address? The word "Abba" implies absolute unshakeable CHILDLIKE TRUST in the Father. In Israel today, you can hear children calling their fathers Abba (Daddy). Jesus told His listeners that unless they became like LITTLE CHILDREN, they would not enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:3).

The whole phrase "Abba Father" encompasses the total, unshakeable trust of a little child, together with an adult's unflinching faithful submission to the Father's will.

In our Lenten walk with Jesus on His way to the Cross, we find Him in unspeakable agony in Gethsemane. The only time we meet Jesus praying to His "Abba Father" is in Mark's condensed and moving account (14:36). Jesus became deeply distressed and troubled, and His soul was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. In His passionate plea for mercy to His Abba Father, He implored Him to take the cup of suffering away from Him. (Luke even tells us that He sweated blood!). Yet, with His last ounce of courage, He submitted to His Father's Will in the end: "Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Can we also pray like this? Yes, we can! But it costs. Paul teaches us in his letter to the Roman church that by the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to call God "Abba Father". How tender and intimate. In our deepest distress, we can call upon our God as both child and adult, knowing that we may have to accept His Will, which may not be ours.

In the light of this, we can have confidence that God in His Fatherly love **will** pull us through any situation, however distressing and hopeless it may seem. Hallelujah!

Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and yours alone.  
May my will forever be

Ever more your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
Never let me go,  
Abba Father, let me be  
Yours and yours alone.

***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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**Helen's Blog**



**Quest for Spirituality**

More soon!

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**HOLY WEEK EVENTS**

There are lots of opportunities to join in with events going on across the circuit this Holy week. All are welcome!

**Gawsworth**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Holy week reflection by Rev Graham Edwards 7.30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87318540976?pwd=V01ISDJuN2RzS1g0Zmd2aGs1M1BjZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 1854 0976

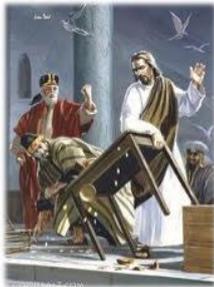
Passcode: 162660

**Poynton**

Poynton Methodist Church is open for individual prayer on Good Friday 10.30 am - 12.30pm. No need to book.

# An Invitation to ALL to: **JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK**

A chance to come and look at pictures and reflections in our church grounds, enabling us to step into the story of Holy Week for ourselves.



Six 'stations' will be attached to trees/railings outside on the church premises at Prestbury and Broken Cross Methodist on our carparks and in the gardens.

You are welcome to walk through our grounds, visiting each station as you wish, taking as long as you need to reflect on each part of the Holy Week story in your own time.

*Please observe social distance guidelines and respect each other's space  
(rule of 6 or 2 households applies)*

*On display from*  
**12pm Mon 29<sup>th</sup> March – 5pm Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

*Find us at:   Prestbury Methodist Church, SK10 4BN  
                  Broken Cross Methodist Church, SK10 3JR*

# HOLY WEEK 'ONLINE'

## Daily Reflections

*A chance to listen to reflections on how Jesus felt each evening on that first Holy Week as he journeyed closer towards the cross.*



Join us **6.45pm** on **Mon, Tues & Wed of Holy Week** for a short (15 mins) reflection on ZOOM

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84400638200>

Meeting ID: 844 0063 8200

### ONLINE SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Online Service available via YouTube  
*(avail from 5pm Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April)*

**GOOD FRIDAY :** Online Service available via YouTube  
*(avail from 8am Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April)*

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## GOOD FRIDAY WALK

*Come along for an 'Easter themed' walk with us!*

*We have created a **CIRCULAR WALK** for Good Friday, starting and finishing **at Macclesfield Methodist Church**. There will be things to look out for on the route and questions to think about as you walk.*

*The walk is approx. 1.5miles and we estimate would take up to an hour if walking as a leisurely stroll.*

*Our hope is that those who wish to do this come along to Macclesfield Methodist Church **any time between 12 and 4pm**.*

*We will give you a route map from the front porch at the church. Then we can pair you up if you wish with other walkers (up to max 6) Or if you prefer to go around in your own household group that's fine (There is a pay&display car park opposite the church)*

*Feel free to bring a friend with you – it will be an interesting and lighthearted way to think about the meaning of Easter.*

*Suitable for adults & children (if accompanied by an adult)*



**NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST COME ALONG**  
*(and please don't all turn up at 12!!)*

## **EASTER SERVICES Sun 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

We are delighted to announce we are re-opening our buildings for worship, as the current lockdown rules change. Please see below the times of our services this Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

*[Note: some churches require you to book before you attend due to Covid restrictions on numbers]*

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>Time of Service</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Important Information to Note</b>
Broken Cross	10am	Revd Helen Byrne	Need to book via Dai Jones tel 01625 618505
Gawsworth	10.30am	Rev Shelia Bishop	Need to book via Carolyn Boden tel 01625 502856
Langley (outside church)	3pm	Revd Graham Edwards	Need to book via Alan Chapman tel 01260 252745
Macclesfield	10.30am	Revd Graham Edwards	No need to book.
Poynton	10.30am	Revd Ros Watson	Need to book via Mandy Hawkyard tel 01625 875032
Prestbury	11am	Revd Helen Byrne	Need to book via Roger Bolton tel 01625 420127

*Everyone attending services will need to wear a face mask throughout the service and use hand sanitiser. We are sorry to say if you are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons, you will not be able to attend due to COVID restrictions. We apologise for this.*

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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**

These snaps were taken earlier this month by Roger Bolton...



“A good sign to me is my rhubarb bursting through after I divided it this winter. Just starting out.

In among the shrubs there are purple hellebores.”



Don't forget..

**British Summer Time 2021 in the United Kingdom will begin at 01:00 on Sunday 28 March**

lighter evenings here we come!

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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'.

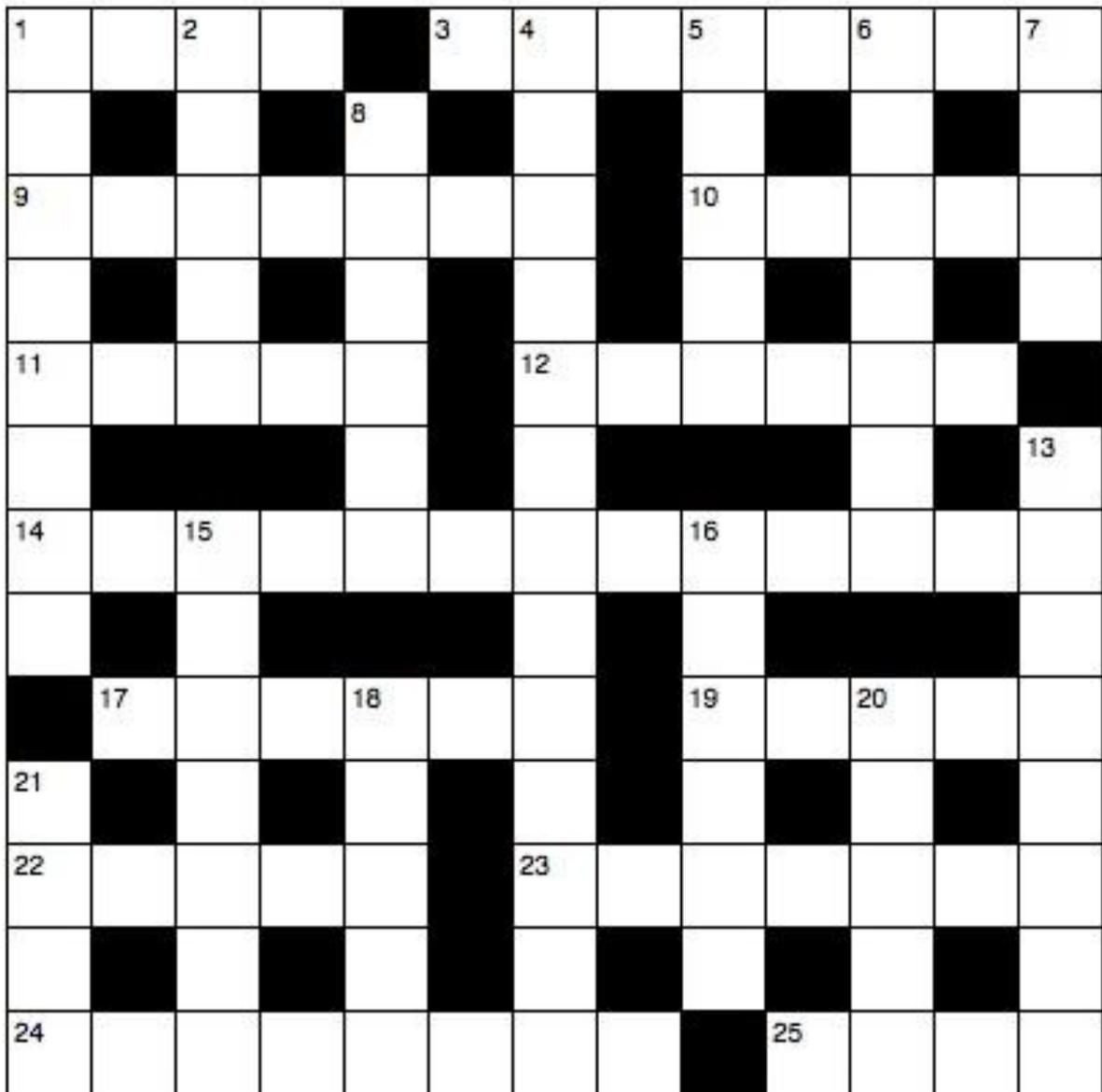
***Subscribing doesn't cost anything as this is a free channel.***

***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!!***

**Just for fun!**




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**Crossword clues**

**Across**

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)

- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

### **Down**

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

**Parish Pump**

## SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS



**Sunday 28 March – Palm Sunday**

**AM** – Morning worship led by Graham

**WATCH ONLINE** ..... : <http://tiny.cc/palm-sunday>

The Reading is Luke 19 v.28-44

**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.....**

Easter services – as shown

4 April – Easter Sunday

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

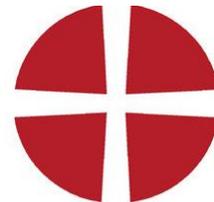


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

**DOWN:** 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.