



MINI MACCLESFIELD MESSENGER

46th Issue: May 2021

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

I have served in the Macclesfield Circuit for nearly five years, and so I feel it is now safe to reveal one of my great passions to you. Star Trek. The films, the TV series, even some toys (which I think still reside in a loft in Liverpool) – I love all of it! Now I know some of you will immediately groan and think to yourselves “oh,



you're one of them are you?” and I know some of you may even choose to roll your eyes and shake your head sadly questioning my life choices. If it makes you feel any better, (which it almost certainly won't) I am also devoted to He-man, Thundercats, Star Wars, and more! I think they're good stories! You might not agree – because different stories speak to you – whether that's Miss Marple, The Crown, Game of Thrones – or anything in between!

Stories are important. We read them, we watch them, and we listen to them – why? Because sometimes they allow us to escape our own problems and immerse ourselves in something else, sometimes they teach us things we would do well to remember, sometimes they tell us things about ourselves, our country, our faith, our lives. Stories can shape the world.

The Christian faith is focussed around a great story – the story of God's people, the story of the Gospel. It has the power to reform and to transform, and it is that great story that unites Christian people everywhere. A story of a God who comes to his people to save them – that's our story, that's the truth we proclaim!

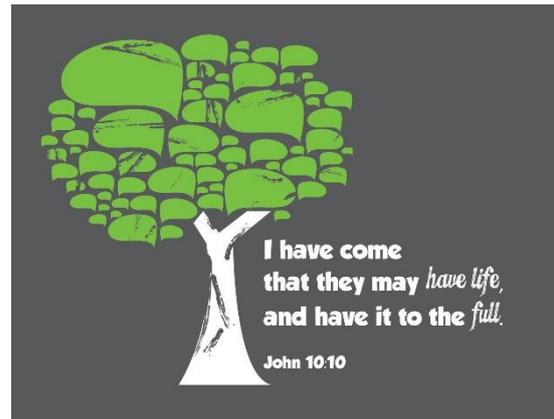
STORY

But so many people aren't interested in that story; they look to other places, other kinds of stories. The most popular programmes on the television are not stories in the classic sense anymore, they are reality programmes! X factor, Britain's got talent, Strictly come Dancing, The Voice, and the list goes on and on. Now I'm not against these

programmes really, I have been known to watch them sometimes, but there are times when they really get on my nerves! Those moments come in one of the pieces to camera that the contestant does in which they, usually with tears flowing down their faces, tell us why they should win – “I want this so much.” They want the prize, they want the money, the fame, the adulation, they want their moment – and presume that because they want it then somehow they deserve it. They want their moment in this life – and are utterly convinced that winning some competition is the answer to all their problems!

They need another story.

We know such a story - the story of who God is, the story of true love. In Johns Gospel Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life in all its fullness”. Life now, life in all its fullness, while we are alive as well as when we die! And of course “they” is you and it is me. It is every person who seeks fame, every person who believes they have a right to be rich, every person who longs for their moment of glory – in fact “they” is every person who has ever lived and will ever live. God offers all people something beyond the things we place value on, he offers us the love that formed the universe and a kind of life that transcends anything we can imagine.



We know the truth of Gods story, we know its power – so how are we going to tell it? The world is changing, we are beginning to glimpse what our *new normal* might be like, and this gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves that question. But whatever we do, the starting point is living in Gods great story of love and grace ourselves.

As an old tutor of mine used to say, the promise of Christianity, the promise of our faith is not simply “pie in the sky when you die” it is also “steak on your plate while you wait”! So let’s tuck in!

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 Vine and Branches – John 15 v.1-8**. Resources are attached.

Dates for diary for upcoming events....

Messy Pentecost Sunday 23rd May - 2pm outside at Prestbury Methodist Church

Messy Church 10th July

Holiday Club 27th - 29th July (these are the actual dates children can attend).

All events will have a booking system. Please see our facebook pages for further details or email methodistfamilies@gmail.com

Circuit Holiday Club - 26th – 30th July 2021

We are starting to plan and think how we are going to run holiday club this year. We know that with the current road map of easing lockdown we will be in step 4 which is no restrictions (set out by the government) but this could change depending on the scientific evidence. We also don't know what the Methodist Church guidelines will be at this time. So, as you can imagine planning holiday club is not straight forward.

The first thing we need to find out is who will be willing to volunteer for holiday club? We will need volunteers to help during the days and behind the scenes preparing items. If you are willing to volunteer, please can you let the children's contact in your church know and let them know what you can volunteer with.

Broken Cross – Ruth

Gawsworth – Sheila

Langley – Brenda

Macclesfield – Alison

Prestbury – Heather

Poynton – myself Angela Bourne

We will be holding a circuit holiday club meeting on Monday 17th May at 7:30pm on zoom. In this meeting we will discuss how we can run our circuit holiday club. We will be looking at different ways in which we can run holiday club to ensure it safe for everyone who is attending. One way could be incorporating outside activities. Anyone can attend the meeting; the link is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93165710448?pwd=WEU4V3ZLdmISNWJBUmPoVVB3UCswZz09>

If you have any questions or would like any more information, please get in touch with either your church children's work contact or myself.

Regards Angela

Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Langley this week. This prayer has been provided by Mary McQuinn.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all. We thank you Lord for the creation you have given us, sitting here in the garden listening to the birds singing and watching them busy in the hedges making nests. What a wonderful sound from the cows mooing in the field and giving one another a push to get to the water trough, what a wonderful spring you have given us. We thank you Lord for all the lovely colours of the flowers in the gardens and the green shoots appearing on the trees and bushes.

We pray for all the people in India who cannot get enough oxygen to help them with the Covid outbreak there. Lord be with them and give them strength to overcome the outbreak.

We pray for the Queen and her family at this sad time, Lord be with them and let them know we are praying for them.

Let us also pray for the black communities at this time feeling under-valued, let us help people to realise they just like us as the colour of your skins should not make any difference, we are all one in the eyes of the Lord.

We pray again for all people affected by Covid 19 and hope that the vaccination programme helps to bring us back to some sort of normality.

We pray for Tony Lewis and his friend Sheila who were in a car accident recently and hope that they make a speedy recovery from their injuries. Also, we pray for Iain Emberson's mother who is 99 years old and suffered a fall at home and ended up in hospital. Lord be with them at this time.

Finally, Lord, I thank you for the lovely sunshine as I sit here in the garden and pray that everyone is enjoying these early spring days.

Amen.

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

THE CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

This phrase is quoted in all three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The most vivid account of Jesus' death on the cross, after hanging there for six hours, is given by Matthew.

*From the sixth hour to the ninth hour, DARKNESS came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit. **At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.** The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. (Matthew 27:45-46, 50-52)*

What has the curtain of the temple to do with this cataclysmic event, and why was the curtain torn from top to bottom?

Even in His searing pain, Jesus was close to His Father – He asked His Father to forgive His torturers, He Himself forgave the repentant thief, but then He felt utterly forsaken by GOD.

In His crying out to God, Jesus was quoting Psalm 22. He could not cry out to His **Father**, because He felt infinitely far from Him. He had now paid the price for our salvation from eternal death and separation from God. He bore all our sins, past, present and future, on His shoulders, and they blotted out the sun of His Father's love - so totally was He cut off from God. But then, at the last moment, He committed His spirit into His **Father's** hands, before breathing His last. (Luke 23:46)

At the moment when Jesus died, the curtain was split in two because **there was no longer any barrier between man and God**. Jesus started destroying this barrier by His birth; He finished destroying it by His death.

The curtain in the Temple was the physical manifestation of the barrier between man and God. Now this barrier was no longer needed, and therefore the Temple had become redundant.

To the Jewish people, that would have been absolutely unthinkable. On Mount Sinai God had commanded Moses to build Him a SANCTUARY where He would dwell among His people. He gave him the blueprint of the Temple in the minutest detail from which no deviation would be allowed throughout all generations. A large part of the Old Testament revolves around the Temple, the core of which was the **Holy Place** and the **Most Holy Place**. The Holy Place was where the priests would offer prayers, praise and incense, and the Most Holy Place was where God Himself dwelt. These two places were separated by a curtain. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and that only ONCE A YEAR, on the Day of Atonement. **This is the curtain which was torn in two on Jesus' death!**

That was the point at which man's separation from God was done away with. That indeed was a cataclysmic event, and we can CELEBRATE EASTER WITH JUBILATION! We can now, as it says in Hebrews, approach the throne of grace with confidence! We have unlimited access - dirty and unkempt as we are - to God our Father, and Jesus. Did Jesus not say that if we obeyed His commands, He and His Father would come to us and would make their home in us? (John 14:23)

The curtain could only have been torn from top to bottom by Someone who had the strength to tear the large curtain of Herod's massive temple.

Maybe the meaning of the torn curtain was obvious to the three synoptic evangelists, for they knew what their contemporaries had experienced during and after Jesus' death. – namely gut-shaking, terrifying AWE and a joyful anticipation of a much deeper and more intimate relationship with God from then on.

God sent His Son,
they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there
to prove my Saviour lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
because He lives, all fear is gone;
because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because He lives.*

And then one day, I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
and I know He lives.

Because ...

Hymn 52, verses 1 and 3,
Mission Praise

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

Thought I would share these beautiful spring flowers from my garden with the circuit.
Margaret Parry, Gawsworth





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!!

Community



ORGAN MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK 2021

I am pleased to report that the donations I received for the Holy Week organ music CD, enabled me to send £400 to the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal on behalf of the people of the Yemen. With the Gift Aid added, it made a grand total of £500.

Grateful thanks for your support.

Andy Donaldson



Give thanks for your vaccination - Help protect the most vulnerable people, while the vaccine is out of reach. As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected.

We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare.

Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV. Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks we can do more.

Have you or your loved ones had your vaccine?

Please give thanks with a donation to help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach. See more at....

[Give thanks for your coronavirus vaccine - Christian Aid](#)



Methodist relief and development

India is currently in the grips of a deadly second wave of Covid-19 – please give generously to help save lives today.

It is impossible to have missed the devastating news coming out of India over the past week. With hospitals unable to cope with the ever-increasing number of cases, and oxygen supplies scarce, the situation threatens to overwhelm the country's health systems.

At the time of writing, India has recorded more than 17 million Covid-19 infections and over 200,000 deaths – however, the true impact of the virus is expected to be much higher, with many cases and deaths going unreported.

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain will be scaling up our response in India through the joint [Emergency Coronavirus Appeal](#), to provide vital support to vulnerable communities at this most desperate moment. If you are able to donate to support the work of AllWeCan in getting aid to those in India during the pandemic please see the website or call 020 7467 5132.

The people of India are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of crisis. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.





Praying for Our Planet

Seven climate and environmental scientists
talk about their science and their faith



Praying for Our Planet is a thought provoking programme of seven weekday evening talks on zoom. At each a scientist whose work relates to the current climate and ecological emergency, and who is also a Christian, will speak about their area of interest and how their scientific understanding affects the way they pray – what they pray for and how they express those prayers. Following the talk, the audience will be invited to divide into breakout rooms to reflect and respond to what the speaker has said.

The sessions are free, open to all and do not require any pre-existing knowledge of the topics.

They are being hosted by Bramhall Methodist Church as part of their Climate Year and in partnership with Greater Manchester Churches Together. They will be at 7:30pm (until 9:15) on weekday evenings through May and June 2021.

- Wednesday 12th May Dr Mike Morecroft, Principal Climate Scientist,
Natural England.
Climate Change, Nature and Us
- Tuesday 18th May Christ Walsh, PhD researcher, Tyndall Centre,
University of Manchester.
Climate Change and Others
- Monday 24th May Dr Tim Gordon, Marine Biologist,
University of Exeter.
Lamenting our Loss
- Wednesday 12th May Prof John Evans, Chemistry,
University of Southampton.
What can we do?
- Friday 18th June Steph Bryant, Youth and Schools Programme Co-Director,
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge
Supporting and engaging with young people
- Wednesday 23rd June Dr Cecilia Medupin, Dept Earth & Environmental Sciences,
University of Manchester
We're all in this together
- Thursday 1st July Dr Admos Chimhowu, Global Development Unit,
University of Manchester

For further details, including an abstract for each talk, and to book tickets please visit <https://bmethods.link/pfop>. Use #pfoplanet for social media.

Face to face services

Macclesfield Methodist Circuit Preaching Plan April – May 2021

CHURCH	April				May				
	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
BROKEN CROSS	BYRNE		D JONES		BYRNE		D JONES		
GAWSWORTH	F BISHOP		EDWARDS		S BISHOP		EDWARDS		F BISHOP
GREEN CLOSE									
LANGLEY	EDWARDS				EDWARDS		RASHLEIGH		EDWARDS
MACCLESFIELD	EDWARDS	BYRNE	WATSON	EDWARDS	GUNNING (OA)	BYRNE	NICHOLLS	EDWARDS	WAKELIN
POYNTON	WATSON	HAWKYARD	BAKER	WATSON	RASHLEIGH	EDWARDS	BRADLEY	MALTBY	HAWKYARD
PRESTBURY	BYRNE			BYRNE		OLIVER		BYRNE	
WALKER BARN									
VIDEO	GE HB RW	BYRNE	WATSON	EDWARDS	BYRNE	EDWARDS	BYRNE	EDWARDS	BYRNE
ZOOM	WATSON	EDWARDS	BYRNE	WATSON	EDWARDS	BYRNE	EDWARDS	BYRNE	EDWARDS

*All services are dependent on guidance and direction from the UK Government/ The Methodist Church of Great Britain

** It is expected that social distancing measures, including face coverings will remain in place during this period.

*** it is unlikely that congregational singing will be permitted in this period.



1. Stop and Reflect



Where once there was a school full of life and activity, is now a building site as Kings school is demolished. To the left we see some new houses already built on the old school grounds. The school has moved to a brand new site and learning goes on. What parts of us maybe need to let go and allow God to rebuild us in a different way?

*'Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me....'*



2. Stop and Reflect



As you stroll around the cemetery, take a moment to remember loved ones no longer with us. This place has seen much sadness in the last year. It has also been a space where families and friends have given thanks for love received and joys shared. Take a moment's silence to remember the times of love received and joys shared in your life. Thank God for those who have gone before you. Be assured of His everlasting love and peace, on earth and in Heaven.

*'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends.' [1 Corinthians 13]*



3. Stop and Reflect



Here the children play, adults can sit on a bench and relax. There is life happening all around, in gentle conversation of the cheer of a child on a swing. Life is rich in possibility, even when hope can feel faint. The Easter story reminds us there is always hope, even in the darkest of times. Hope springs eternal! What are you hoping for this Easter time? What are you looking forward to? In this place where life is seen all around, offer your hopes and dreams to God.

*'May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.' [Romans 15:13]*



4. Stop and Reflect



This boulder is called a 'Glacial Erratic', taking its name from the Latin word 'errere' which is 'error' or 'wanderer' – something that shouldn't be there! It was carried here by a glacier and buried deep underground about 12,500 years ago, then in 1857 the Victorians rediscovered it during excavation work in a field near Oxford Road and decided to move it to be displayed in their new park here. Whilst it shouldn't be here it is a welcome part of this park. It has travelled far and over a long time to get here, a magnificent part of our Creator's Planet Earth, this boulder reminds us how vast our planet is.

We are but a small part of God's creation, yet each of us matter to God more than any other creatures, plants, mountains or rocks. He loves each of us so much, He came to be one of us to show us how much he loves us. Easter is the time we are reminded of His story becoming part of our story, so that all who wander can find a place to belong in His kingdom.

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you [Isaiah 43]



5. Stop and Reflect



Walking back up Riseley Street to the Church, what can you see around you that you perhaps have not noticed before? You will walk past where a previous Methodist Church used to worship on your left hand side. They handed on the baton of faith to other Methodist congregations and today there are still several churches where people continue to find friendship and faith.

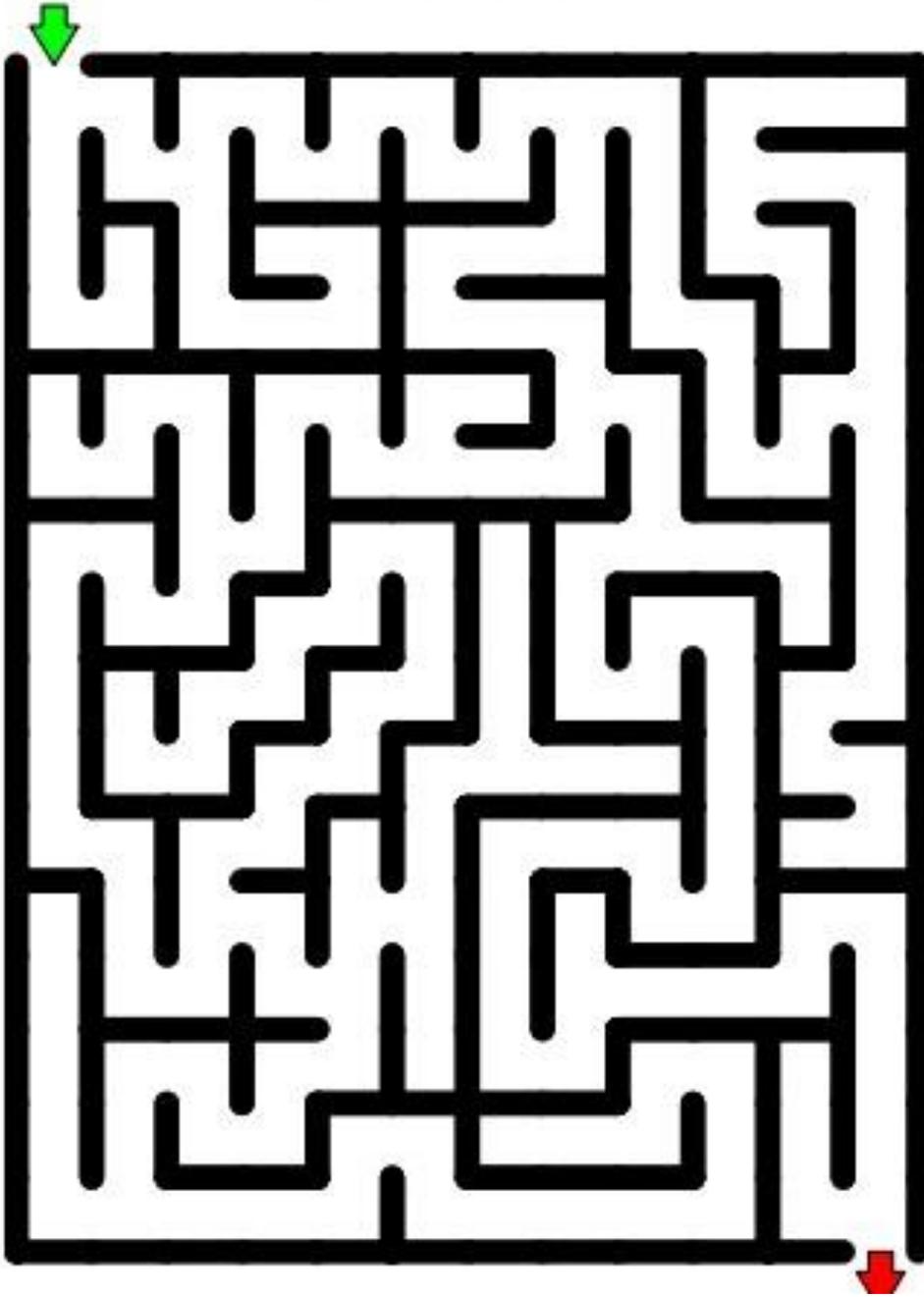
Where are you in your journey of faith? Are you just starting out, maybe you feel you've been travelling a while or perhaps you feel tired of your travels and in need of a rest.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, hold onto the Easter message of Hope for New Beginnings, of a Love that never ends.

*'He lives, all glory to His Name!
He lives, my Saviour, still the same.
What joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!*

Just for fun!

5	4			7	6	1	8	
7							2	
		6	1	2	4	7	3	
		4	8			9		
2				3				1
		8			1	3		
	6	1	5	4	9	2		
	5							6
	2	9	7	6			1	3



Parish Pump

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 2 May

AM – Morning worship led by Helen

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/easter5>

The Reading is 1 John 3 v.16-24

The hymns are StF: 51 / 615 / 503

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.....

9 May – Graham

16 May – Helen

23 May – Graham

30 May - Helen

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

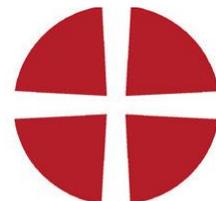


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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

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Ministers

Rev Graham Edwards

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Email: graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk

Rev Helen Byrne

Tel: 01625 572259

Email: helenmethodist@gmail.com

Rev Ros Watson

On sabbatical
