



MINI **MACCLESFIELD** **MESSENGER**

48th Issue: July/August 2021

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

It is hot. You might not have noticed, but I have! My forehead has developed a permanent red glow because it is almost impossible to keep it out of the sun (given that sadly it extends all the way up my head these days...) On Sunday we had an open-air Parade service at Gawsorth in the (very hot) sun for our Girls Brigade, and it was wonderful... but I have to admit I found the drive home almost equally wonderful! The air conditioning was on, the car was cool, the music I played was (as I'm sure you can imagine) beyond compare, so good was it



that I wondered if I should take a very long route home – nipping down some country lanes I haven't yet travelled and seeing what happens! I have always had a tendency to explore new places, if I go for a walk, I'm always tempted to "see what's down there" than stick to routes I know! When I move house to a new part of the country, I often decide to try new roads – to much sighing and rolling of eyes from others who might be in the car! There is something that appeals to me about



travelling by unknown roads, following a new path – and generally wandering! But when I am wandering, I know where I am, I may not know every part - but I can usually work out where it fits into the big picture of where I am.

In JRR Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* there is a poem, *The Riddle of Strider*, which has the line "not all who wander are lost". The poem shows how easily things can be misunderstood – "all that is gold does not glitter, the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost". In that same way it's easy to think that if you wander, you must not know where you're going, and you must be lost! But wandering is ok!

In the life of faith, I think we can often wander – not leaving behind all our beliefs and convictions, but just nipping down a pathway we haven't seen before or have ignored because we always go the other way – widening our experience, and getting a new perspective on how everything might fit together. The Bible is full of journeys, and of wandering too! Abraham travels to the new land God has promised him, Rebekkah leaves her homeland to be Isaac's wife, Jacob travels from Haran to Bethel and wrestles with God on the way! Joseph is forced to travel to Egypt as a slave, the whole of God's people are freed from slavery in Egypt and wander for forty years!



In the New Testament there is the road to Emmaus, the road to Damascus, and the constant travel in the book of Acts! And of course, there are more - sometimes these journeys are comfortable and joyful, sometimes they are very much the opposite. But they always help to give a bigger picture of God, and the purpose of God for the world and for God's people. Wandering is a good thing – because God is always bigger than we think and we need our vision, our picture to be stretched again and again!

Wandering in the life of faith and in our churches might mean we ask, “what would happen if we did this...?” or “how about we go along this path for a while and see where it leads...?” wandering might mean we stop and say “well, we've always taken this route, but there is a road going down there...” or “I've always liked the motorways, but let's try the less travelled roads for a bit...” Wandering might mean we admit to struggling with questions of faith and church life and taking some time to try to see the bigger picture and find our place with God again. Wandering might mean lots of things, but it is not to be feared or avoided, I think it is good.

Elisabeth Elliot a missionary born in Belgium said “the God who created, names and numbers the stars in the heavens, also numbers the hairs of my head. He pays attention to very big things and to very small ones. What matters to me matters to Him, and that changes my life”. Sometimes we need to wander, to remind ourselves of those truths – to know the depth of God's love again. And the most wonderful truth? Wherever we wander - God is 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.

Please keep collecting!

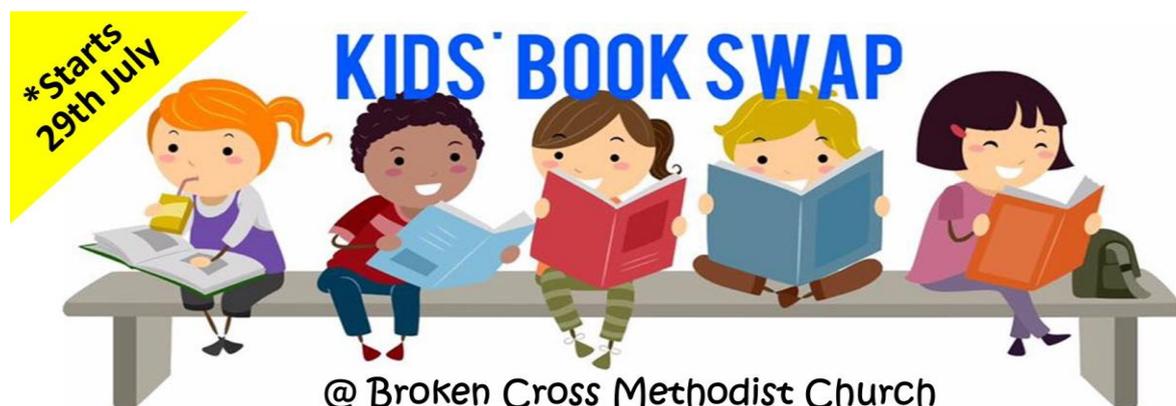
Please don't forget other ways of giving! Church finances continue to be stretched, so if you haven't already, why not set up a regular Standing Order? And of course, don't forget to Gift Aid if you can - it's worth an extra 25% from HMRC for your church. Your church Treasurer can let you know how you 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 David and Bathsheba. You can find it in your Bible in **2 Samuel 11**. Resources are attached.

Not long now till Holiday Club!! 27 – 29 July

Not a Circuit event, but something for the children over the Summer....



@ Broken Cross Methodist Church

Thursday 10-12pm* at the Pop Up Café

bring a book you are happy to give for others to enjoy and take away a different book to read at home with your youngster/child



Find Us: Whirley Road Macclesfield SK10 3JR (opposite Jasmine Park) and follow us on Facebook



@BrokenCrossChildren

*please check our Facebook page for any change to dates/times



Angela

Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle we remember Prestbury this week. This prayer has been provided by Joan Pritchard.

I will exalt you, my God the King

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the lord and most worthy of praise. (Psalm 145 vs 1-3)

Ever loving God, help us to continue to sing David's song of praise during the good times and the not so good.

We give thanks for the beauty which surrounds us – the beauty of nature and the beauty we see in the care of those who offer help and comfort in so many ways – doctors, nurses, care workers, teachers, retail staff, volunteers and those we meet in our daily life – relatives, friends and neighbours.

Help us to do extol your name and love for us as we meet with others so that they can see your love for the world through us and the way we live our lives.

We offer you our hand, O Lord, to do your work; our lips to sing your praise; our life to proclaim your glory; and our heart to serve you in our neighbour. For Jesus' sake. Amen

(Hildegard of Bingden, 1098-1179)

Members' voices

SUNDAY 18TH JULY GAWSWORTH it is 10.15a.m. and the temperature has already reached the mid twenties. There is much activity as a line of cars rolls onto the car park. Families with garden chairs spill out and find a place to sit. The scene is set for the parade service for the Girls Brigade- It has been so long since we have been together and there are new girls and their families to welcome. Girls in uniforms of red and green and mauve fill the seats. There is a welcome from the Captain Carolyn and Rev Graham and then we SANG, yes we actually SANG 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God'. How good those Alleluias sounded as the traffic rolled past and the workmen started to resurface the road! We prayed for one another and the world and heard the familiar story of the 5000 fed by Jesus. Then we reflected on the GB motto 'Seek, serve and follow Christ' How we must seek Christ who is seeking us, serve others in our daily lives and follow Christ's way of love.

The officers and girls made their annual promises and were presented with their awards and a special gift for staying faithful during lockdown. Then Graham and the girls put together a huge jigsaw making a picture of Gawsworth Methodist church



building overlaid with pictures of people who are really the church. We thought how important each person was, and all the gifts they had to offer. We sang again 'Bless the Lord o my soul' and 'My lighthouse' and then it was time to for a welcome drink, a catch up chat. As we wended our ways home, we all rejoiced that the church had gathered together again at last and together we would move forward to Seek, serve and follow Christ.

Rev Sheila

I've had the following on my kitchen wall for many years but don't know it's origin.

Monica Gent, Macclesfield

Be Encouraged and Be Inspired

Take a 20 - 30 min walk every day and while you walk, SMILE

Sit in silence for 10 min each day

When you wake up in the morning, complete the following statement:

“My purpose is totoday”

Live with the 3 E's - Energy - Enthusiasm - Empathy

and the 3 F's Faith – Family – Friends

Spend more time with people over the age of 70

and those under the age of 6

Dream more while you are awake

Try to make at least people smile each day

Realise that life is a school and you are here to learn and pass your tests. Problems are just part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like an algebra test, but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.

Smile and laugh more. It will keep the energy vampires away

Life isn't fair but it's still good

Life is too short to waste time hating anyone

Don't take yourself too seriously – nobody else does

You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree

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

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

Recently, the UK government voted to reduce UK aid from 0.7 to 0.5 per cent of gross national income. That may seem like a small amount, but it's a £4 billion reduction in spending.



Leprosy Mission projects in Nepal and Bangladesh will be directly affected. Our teams there will no longer be able to support as many people affected by leprosy. Find out more at: <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/>

Take a stand and pledge to give 0.2% of your income each month.

Christian Aid Campaigns Manager, Luke Harman explains how the cut to UK aid is a broken promise to the world's poorest, and how Christian Aid is responding. The UK Prime Minister has regularly stressed his Government's 'levelling up' agenda and recently launched of plan that promised a green industrial revolution, and thousands of new jobs.

Whilst by no means perfect, there's much in the plan that we should all welcome. If implemented, it could set the UK on course to a sustainable future. With the UK hosting the UN climate talks next November, the UK's level of ambition on climate change will be crucial to convincing others to up their game. And there's still time [for us to influence the UK](#) to submit an ambitious national climate plan to the UN before the year is out.

Yet this desire to 'level up' seems to stop at our our borders with a cut in the aid budget announced this week - from 0.7 to 0.5% of national income.



This decision will pile yet more pressure onto the millions of people worldwide who've been pushed into extreme poverty as a result of the global pandemic.

Cutting the aid budget during a global pandemic is like closing fire stations during a heatwave.

These are tough times and the UK Government has tough decisions to make, but balancing the books on the backs of the poor isn't the way to do it. Meeting our promises on aid is not only the right thing to do, it was enshrined as a promise in law and in the Conservative Party manifesto. As Desmond Tutu said 'a promise to the poor is particularly sacred'.

[The 0.2% pledge - Christian Aid](#)

Playground for Gaza



We're trying to raise as much money as we can to enable a playground to be built in Rafah, Gaza.

At the end of July, Greg and I are cycling on our tandem from Bristol to London, over 4 days, with 200+ other cyclists, as part of the Big Ride for Palestine to raise awareness of the situation in Gaza and the rest of Palestine.

<https://www.thebigride4palestine.com/big-ride-summer-2021>



[The Big Ride Summer 2021](#)

The Big Ride for Palestine is an initiative by supporters of the Palestinian people that combines a love of cycling with practical solidarity and awareness raising. We want to bring attention to the human rights abuses endured by the Palestinian people, the brutal military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank.

www.thebigride4palestine.com

If you could spare a few pennies to sponsor us, we believe they will go to a very good cause. If you're able to share the details with others, that would be even better! You can donate to our JustGiving page by clicking here: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tandem-big-ride-for-palestine?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=tandem-big-ride-for-palestine&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=8f5980b580154298a4521d844923648f.

**Many thanks, Anna Hughes
St Alban's Roman Catholic Church**

HOPE CHURCHES IN MACCLESFIELD OUTREACH

How to share your faith' - 10am to midday on Saturday 7th August: This will be run by Pastor Steve Parsons at Tytherington Family Worship. Any members of your congregation would be most welcome to attend this but [please book early as places are limited!](#)

We are especially encouraging Christians who are enthusiastic to help for two-hour slots at the Treacle Markets on Sundays 26th September and/or 31st October. There are opportunities up-front or behind the scenes setting up, packing away etc. Thank you so much for your support! You are all warmly invited to join us; just let us know which Treacle Market and which two-hour slot you prefer!

May God bless you,
Michelle Mason & Flo Bowmaker

Leaders to contact: Michelle Mason (07984 082364) - TFW Church
Flo Bowmaker (07791 167140) -TFW Church. Please note Flo and Michelle happen to both be away 24th- 31st July

Who: We are inviting local Christians to help the team (2 hour slots)

Training: Saturday 7 August – 10 to 12am
Evangelism Workshop: 'How to share your faith'
at TFW Church, led by Pastor Steve Parsons
coffee and biscuits provided.

Event: Treacle Market Outreach St Michael's Churchyard
Sunday 29 August – 10am to 4pm (Enough Volunteers)
Sunday 26th September – 10am – 4pm
Sunday 31st October – 10am – 4pm

- **Free fun activities** for adults and children
- **Survey:** 'Your experience during Covid'
Ask: interests, engage in conversation. E.g. 'If there was one thing out of these you could have what would it be?
1) a good night's sleep, 2) getting rid of pain/ healing 3) other
- **Prayer:** Then we ask if they'd like prayer (just 1 or 2 minutes)
- **Aftercare** of those ministered to:
 - o bookmark with relevant Scripture on it
 - o number of their local church
 - o next Alpha course geographically
 - o relevant hobby group run by a church

Churches to provide

- **volunteers** to help for 2 hour slots
- **1 hobby group** per church
- a friendly person who will follow up with a **phone call**
- any **courses** running – Alpha etc

The refurbished Hope Centre, Park Green, Macclesfield



Re-opened at 9.30am on Monday 5th July to welcome back their loyal customers as well as all those who have yet to experience the pleasure of the warm welcome and the excellent food and drink. There will be a formal opening later in the Summer and a Service of Thanksgiving and Commitment in the Autumn. The ground and first floors have been redesigned. However, there is still work to be completed, especially on the 1st floor, which will accommodate Emily's office, the shop and space for meetings. A stairlift has now been put in place for those who require assistance for access to the 1st floor. If you haven't been back yet, why not pop in!



Safe Families have an opportunity to get Local Authority funding to help churches in Cheshire connect with families in their communities – but we need your help and prayers to make this a reality.

Who are Safe Families?

Safe Families have an ambitious vision to empower the church and to see thousands of local Christians right across the UK offering hope, belonging and support to their community's most vulnerable children and families.

We already have over 4,500 trained and supported volunteers from over 1,000 churches and community groups across the UK. This year we expect to support 1,300 families, connecting them with these volunteers so they no longer feel isolated and are being supported to stay together and thrive.

These relationships bring hope and practical help, they encourage, they provide the support of a good friend, neighbour, aunt or grandparent that many of us would take for granted. And without whom our own stories could look very different.

The need is huge and there is a growing care crisis with rising numbers of children in care and early help services being cut across the country. Safe Families has a model that works; having effectively demonstrated the ability to reduce the flow of children into care, to sustain families in the community and to increase the sense of hope and connection that families have; ultimately enabling them to thrive, happy and secure.

The video on this link shows just one example of volunteers from a local church coming together to support a young mum who had no one else to turn to:

<https://vimeo.com/safefamiliesuk/tamstory>

Safe Families in Cheshire East

Now Safe Families have been given an exciting opportunity by Cheshire East Council to bid for a contract which would allow churches to connect with families

across Cheshire East who need support, in the towns and villages surrounding Macclesfield, Knutsford, Congleton, Sandbach, Crewe and Nantwich.

Firstly, we'd love you to pray that this bid with the council is successful. We'll find out by the end of summer. One of Safe Families values is 'Faith'. We believe in a God who can do more than we can ask or imagine and we know that your prayers can directly impact this process and bring Safe Families to Cheshire.

Secondly, we'd love to talk to you about how we can work with your church. At Safe Families we passionately believe that the local church is best placed to help those in need in their communities and we'd love to talk about how we can empower your church to do this in a new way.

If you'd like to have a conversation with Safe Families about how we can work with your church please get in touch with Lesley Smith at lesleysmith@safefamilies.uk or on 0738 4897317.

Hope Countryside online gathering - Saturday 31st July 9.00-10.30 am

Hope Countryside Online Prayer Gathering 31 July. This is the fifth in the [Hope Countryside partnership](#)'s series of online prayer gatherings. Hope Countryside expresses our growing vision of beacons of prayer lighting up across rural Britain, bringing hope both to the countryside and from the countryside to the whole of the nation. Our aim is to promote understanding of, and prayer for, rural life and communities, church and mission, and farming and the land. Please join us and share in prayer for the churches and communities of rural Britain. Book please via [Hope Countryside, Online Prayer Gathering Tickets, Sat 31 Jul 2021 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

From Paul Clayton a member of the congregation at Langley. The meeting took place early in July.

Songs of Praise 20/06/2021 can be seen on BBC iPlayer the relevant sections are at 3:20 to 7:40 and 27:00 to 29:20.

Shutlingsloe Encounter

On one of my Mid week walks last night and bumped into 2 very interesting guys on the top of Shutlingsloe. Both work for a Christian Charity #walkministeries in Stoke who help people coming out of prison. Both these guys spent a lot of time in prison as young men and now help others to get back into society, employment and also help with rehabilitation from drugs etc.

Simon - (<https://lnkd.in/dT8E6Hk>)

with the beard and the charity CEO) was on songs of praise 2 weeks ago being interviewed by Aled Jones. bbc.in/3iOfOWH - said I'd post something on their charity. They also gave me a blessing which was unexpected. Very inspirational and unexpected meeting on top a hill.

Also, if there are any businesses in the #stokeontrent area who can help by donations of computer equipment please contact Simon.



Website of Walk Ministries is <https://walkministries.org.uk/about-us>

YCCN – Young Christian Climate Network - Relay to cop26

**UK CHURCHES'
RELAY TO
COP26**

June - November 2021

Information about how to get involved and what kind of roles we have available.

Sign up or register for our Q+A session at yccn.uk

Rise to the Moment

The poster features a red silhouette of the United Kingdom with a black line tracing a path across it. The background is a solid light brown color.

Calling all walkers – any age!!

This November, world leaders are meeting in Glasgow for important climate negotiations. We believe it's time to make decisions which protect people not bank balances, to decide that no country will go into debt tackling climate change. It's a decade-defining opportunity to make a stand.

Join the UK churches' Relay to COP26. It's time to rise to the moment.

Find out more including how to participate at www.yccn.uk

Just for fun!

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

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Advert – note other funeral directors are also available



Face to face services

2021	JULY	AUGUST				
	25	1	8	15	22	29
READINGS:	2 Sam 11:1-15, Eph 3:14-21, Jn 6:1-21	2 Sam 11:26- 12:13a, Eph 4:1-16, Jn 6:24-35	2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Eph 4:25-5:2, Jn 6:35, 41-51	1 Kgs 2:10- 12:3:3-14, Eph 5:15-20, Jn 6:51-58	1 Kgs 8:22-30, 41-43, Eph 6:10-20, Jn 6:56-69	Song 2:8-13, Jas 1:17-27, Mk 7:1-8, 14- 15, 21-23
BROKEN CROSS 10.30		Fielding T		Byrne		F Bishop
GAWSWORTH 10.30	OA	F Bishop	OA	Nicholls	Heap	S Bishop
GREEN CLOSE 14.30	NO SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE TIME BEING					
LANGLEY 10.30	Edwards		S Edwards		Fielding T	
MACCLESFIELD 10.30	Byrne	Byrne AAW	Edwards	Maltby	Gunning OA	Byrne
POYNTON 10.30	S Bishop	Maltby	Ward T	Edwards	Byrne	Watson
PRESTBURY 10.30	Oliver		S Bishop		Rashleigh	
WALKER BARN 18.30	NO SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE TIME BEING					
WOODLANDS MHA 11.00	NO SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE TIME BEING					
PRAYER CYCLE:	Prestbury	Walker Barn	Broken Cross	Gawsworth	Langley	Poynton

Please remember: You may need to book to attend - check with your church. Each church will have their own procedures for attendance and you will be notified at the time, but please also note the following:

- **Do not attend if you or someone in your household is feeling unwell in any way**
 - **You will need to wear a face covering, please bring one with you**
 - **You will be required to maintain social distancing rules**
-

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 25 July

AM – Morning worship led by Graham

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/proper12>

The Reading is John 6 v1-21

The hymns are StF: 465 / 153 / 563

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

Online Services coming up.....

1 August – Helen

22 August – Helen

8 August – Graham

29 August – Helen

15 August – Graham

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

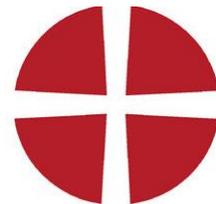


FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

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

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

On sabbatical
